

## MUST READS



### LIGHTS OF LOVE

Annual ceremony held at Jackson Hospital  
**8A**

### TRAFFIC CRASH

One dead in Jackson County accident  
**7A**



### FLORIDA STATE

No timetable to resume Greek life after frat death  
**12A**

### INSIDE TODAY'S FLORIDAN

CLASSIFIEDS	11B
PUZZLES	9B
CRIME	13A
LOCAL	3A
OBITUARIES	7A
OPINION	6A
SPORTS	1B

### OBITUARIES

ROBERT "BOB" JOHNSON

PAGE 7A

### TODAY'S WEATHER



High: 61  
Low: 44

Sunny  
Details, 2A

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## CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

# See a country Scrooge and more

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER  
dbuckhalter@jcfloridan.com

Grand Ridge Baptist Church, on State Road 69 south, will present "A Cricket County Christmas Carol" on Sunday, Dec. 17 and Monday, Dec. 18.

The play by Eddie McPherson offers a country take on the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol." Choir members have lead roles in the 16-character play, with six children joining the adults on stage. The play begins at 6 p.m. both days, and admission is free.

The church has done this play and similar McPherson "Cricket County"-themed productions off and on for the last decade or so. Some years, the church pres-



PHOTO BY SANDRA HARRRELL  
John Hamilton is in costume as Fester, a "country cousin" in the play "A Cricket County Christmas Carol."

ents a formal Christmas cantata, but in others the choir lightens things up with this alternative

comedy-with-a-message that they hope will make the Christmas story feel more accessible to those who may enjoy a different approach.

For cast member Sandra Harrell, who also serves as the GRBC music director, this year's show is especially meaningful. She's taking the role of a male character, Elkin, the leader of a country clan featured in the show — and who also, in dream sequence, is The Ghost of Christmas Future.

Harrell's late father, Hershel Basford, played that role several times before his death four years ago. She'll be wearing the same overalls he wore when he was on stage, and which her son Josh Harrell also wore when he took

on the role of Elkin one year.

Harrell said the lead character, Mimi, is played by Judy Croft. The character begins as a greedy "city cousin," who is angry over the terms of a rich relative's will, which leaves her with less than a "country cousin," who was also gifted in the document.

The country cousin, Fester, is played by John Hamilton. The cousins' benefactor appears to Mimi as a ghost in the night and together they journey through past, present and future. That character, Uncle Zeke, is played by Bud Edwards. Their adventure leaves Mimi changed and feeling blessed.

The play has no intermission

See **PROGRAMS**, Page 7A

## GRAND RIDGE HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARADE



PHOTO BY MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

The Grand Ridge Christmas parade featured pageant winners, floats, performers, Santa Claus and lots of candy. See more photos on Pages 4A and 5A.

## Dispatchers to move in with fire rescue

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER  
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After exploring several other options, Jackson County commissioners have decided to move the Jackson County dispatch center into the new county fire rescue building in Commerce Park, once that structure is in place.

Board members voted Tuesday to redesign the planned structure to accommodate dispatch.

Sheriff Lou Roberts has been concerned for some time about the safety of his communications crew, because of weather dangers in their current headquarters in the Sheriff's Office on U.S. 90. That building is a retrofitted Coca-Cola warehouse, which was never designed to withstand hurricane-force winds, leaving dispatchers exposed to potentially life-threatening harm.

The building has also suffered roof leaks, leaving expensive communications equipment vulnerable.

Previously, the county had planned to move dispatchers to some open space in the

Health Department building off Caverns Road. But that was scrapped when an emergency relocation for the Community Development Department was made necessary by air quality issues in the old building it occupied on U.S. 90. Community Development was moved into the Health Department as a result of that immediate need.

Then the county decided to retro-fit a storage area at the Sheriff's Office and move dispatchers into what would have been a more fortified space there. While not seen as the ideal solution, Roberts said at the time that decision was made that he was glad his deputies and dispatchers would still be under one roof.

But, with a new fire rescue station in the works, the county has now elected to put dispatches with the rescue squad. They'll have distinctly separate areas.

Roberts said he would have liked to keep dispatch and office together, but that he agrees the new plan is the most

See **DISPATCH**, Page 7A

## Jackson county administrator resigns

BY DEBORAH BUCKHALTER  
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Jackson County Administrator Ernie Padgett has resigned his position after 10 months on the job. Citing medical concerns, Padgett made his resignation public on Friday morning. A special meeting will be held Monday at 10 a.m. to discuss plans for advertising the position.

His resignation takes effect Jan. 17, 2018, putting him just shy of a one-year stint in the job.

"There are some medical concerns which require this decision and it is important that I focus on my health and family at this time," Padgett wrote in his resignation letter. "Thank you for the opportunity to work with you all over the past year. Our county has many dedicated employees who serve the county and its citizens with a high degree of professionalism. It has been a joy to work with you and I wish you the best."

By a 3-2 vote in February of this year, Jackson County com-

missioners selected Padgett to become the new county administrator. He was hired at a salary of \$107,000, and started the job on Feb. 27.

Padgett lives in Marianna and had been a county administrator here before. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in public administration from Florida State University.

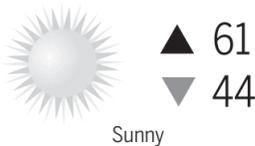
He worked as the Okaloosa County administrator from April 2013 to October 2014, retiring at a salary of \$140,000.

Before that, he retired from Manatee County at a salary of \$202,000 after a 12-year term as county administrator in that community, with a staff of 1,800 employees. Before joining Manatee County, he served five years as the Santa Rosa County administrator at an ending salary of \$75,000, and before that, he served three years as Jackson County administrator at a

See **PADGETT**, Page 7A

5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

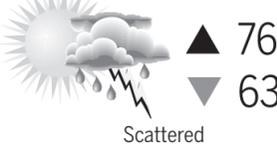
SATURDAY



SUNDAY



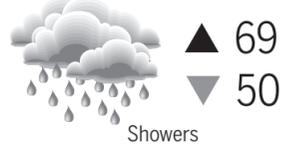
MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



Local weather forecast for Enterprise (58/42), Dothan (60/44), Donalsonville (61/43), Crestview (61/41), Marianna (61/44), Panama City (63/47), Tallahassee (62/43), and Pensacola (59/51).

THE SUN & MOON

Sunrise ..... 6:32 a.m.
Sunset ..... 4:41 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 5:52 a.m.
Moonset ..... 4:42 p.m.



JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN

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HOW TO GET YOUR NEWS PUBLISHED

The Jackson County Floridian will publish news of general interest free of charge. Submit your news or Community Calendar events via e-mail, fax, mail, or hand delivery. Fees may apply for wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcements. Forms are available at the Floridian offices. Photographs must be of good quality and suitable for print. The Floridian reserves the right to edit all submissions.

GETTING IT RIGHT

The Jackson County Floridian's policy is to correct mistakes promptly. To report an error, please call 526-3614 Monday-Friday.



From the Archives: 1973

Reproduction of the Sunday Floridian newspaper from December 16, 1973. Main headline: 'Time changes on January 6'. Other headlines include 'Getty found safe', 'Kissinger met "cooly" in Syria', 'Reiff services set for today', 'City saves Housing Authority from fines', and 'Altha Homecoming Queen'. Includes a photo of a church service and a portrait of C.O. Reiff Jr.

EDITED BY ANGIE COOK
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A look back at local history as chronicled in the Jackson County Floridian.

Reiff services set for today

Funeral services for Charles Otto Reiff Jr., 38, who died Friday morning following a long illness, will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. today at First Methodist Church, with burial to follow at Riverside Cemetery. Reiff, who lived on Watson Drive with his wife and three children, was a native of Marianna, as was his mother. His father, C.O. Reiff Sr., a founder of the nursery business here, moved to Marianna from Monticello in 1927. Reiff, a former Navy flier, was recognized by the flower industry as an accomplished producer of quality gladioli. —JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN, SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1973

City saves Housing Authority from fines

Failure by the Marianna Housing Authority to comply with the 1968 National Gas Safety Act could result in the Florida Public Utilities Commission fining the MHA \$500 plus \$100 each day of non-compliance, Marianna city commissioners learned during a special meeting Friday morning. The commission, however, agreed to a maintenance contract with the Housing Authority that should provide the services necessary for compliance, thus avoiding the fines. —JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN, SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1973

Getty found safe

J. Paul Getty III was found alive Saturday, five months after disappearing from a Rome hippie haunt. His right ear was gone and his release was reported to have cost nearly \$3 million in ransom. The 17-year-old grandson of American oil billionaire J. Paul Getty was in good health despite the missing ear. A Rome newspaper had received an ear and a lock of hair described as Paul's and allegedly sent in an effort to prove the kidnapping was not a hoax. —JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN, SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1973

Time changes on Jan. 6

President Nixon signed a bill Saturday putting the nation on year-around Daylight Saving Time starting Jan. 6. He also called for Congress to act before the Christmas recess next week on the more expansive energy conservation bill which cleared the House early Saturday. Nixon said the extra hour of evening daylight will save "an estimated equivalent of 150,000 barrels of oil a day" this winter. Under the law, daylight time will be in effect all year for a two-year period and for the first time since World War II. —JACKSON COUNTY FLORIDIAN, SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 1973

Today in History

Thought For Today

"History never really says goodbye. History says, 'See you later.'"

—Eduardo Galeano
Uruguayan writer (1940-2015)

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).
In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."
In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.
In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.
In 1985, at services in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, President Ronald Reagan and his wife,

Nancy, offered condolences to families of 248 soldiers killed in the crash of a chartered plane in Newfoundland.
In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.
In 1997, singer Nicolette Larson, a recording artist who lifted Neil Young's pop hit "Lotta Love" to the top of the charts in the 1970s, died in Los Angeles at age 45.
Ten years ago: British forces formally handed over to Iraq responsibility for Basra, the last Iraqi region under their control. Singer-songwriter Dan Fogelberg died in Deer Isle, Maine, at age 56.
Five years ago: President Barack Obama visited Newtown, Connecticut, the scene of the

Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre; after meeting privately with victims' families, the president told an evening vigil he would use "whatever power" he had to prevent future shootings. Two Topeka, Kansas, police officers, Cpl. David Gogian and Officer Jeff Atherly, were shot to death in a grocery parking lot; the suspected gunman was later killed after an armed standoff. A 23-year-old woman was brutally raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi, a crime that triggered widespread protests in India. (The woman died 13 days later.)
One year ago: President Barack Obama put Russia's Vladimir Putin on notice that the U.S. could use offensive cyber muscle to retaliate for interference in the U.S. presidential election, his strongest suggestion to date that Putin had been well aware of campaign email hacking. John Glenn's home state and the nation began saying goodbye to the beloved astronaut starting with a public viewing of his flag-draped casket in Ohio's Statehouse rotunda in Columbus.

Arbor Outlook

# Neighbors, Christmas and All The King's Men

“It is not hard to love men for the things they endure and the words they do not speak.” — “All The King's Men” by Robert Penn Warren

Decades back, we were fortunate to live next door to a retired Air Force veteran. Though he passed away long ago, I think of him often, especially during the Christmas season.

Mr. C. B. was the kind of next door neighbor that everyone hopes to inherit when they buy a house. He faithfully threw back without complaint every football, basketball, baseball, Wiffle ball, tennis ball, Frisbee and toy that emanated from games in our back yard. I never heard him utter a negative word or respond to a “Good morning” across the fence with anything less than a smile and heartfelt “Howdy.” If you asked C.B. how he was faring, he invariably answered, “Oh, fair to partly cloudy,” and then he'd laugh out loud.

C.B. rarely left his house because his wife had suffered a debilitating stroke and required constant care, which he cheerfully provided. Each afternoon, in the warmest part of the day, C.B. wheeled her out the



Margaret McDowell  
Arbor Outlook

back door and sat with her in the sunshine. Occasionally she would point out bushes she would like boxed or tree limbs that needed trimming, and C.B. would walk over to the plant or tree and begin the work as requested. Mostly, they simply sat and held hands and enjoyed the sunshine together.

His wife's quality of life was very compromised, and C.B. altered his own lifestyle to care for her. He could have exhibited anger or resentment, but he never let his family situation dictate his mood. He was unfailingly cheerful and polite. He took pride in his yard and mowed and edged it and weeded his small vegetable garden well into his 70's. Money meant little to C.B. except in terms of what it could provide in the way of medicine and treatment for his wife. Most likely he

would have traded his life savings if his bride could have returned to health.

I wondered sometimes if the couple harbored dreams of travel in retirement. Or if they longed to move nearer children or other family. Those things became much more problematic as she aged and her condition worsened. That said, he remained positive, upbeat and happy for as long as I knew him.

Everything is relative, including money. Our financial goals and dreams are important. And striving to reach them is a laudable goal. But without good health they mean little. C. B. taught me that. His was a grateful soul, a countenance complete with happiness and joy in the little things around him that provided him pleasure. Merry Christmas, C.B.

Margaret R. McDowell, ChFC®, AIF®, author of the syndicated economic column “Arbor Outlook,” is the founder of Arbor Wealth Management LLC (850-608-6121, www.arborwealth.net), a fiduciary, “fee-only” registered investment advisory firm located near Destin. This column should not be considered personalized investment advice and provides no assurance that any specific strategy or investment will be suitable or profitable for an investor.

Murph's Positive Reflections

# Countdown to Christmas

There's excitement in the air just about everywhere we go as the Christmas holiday draws near. Those who are able to buy gifts and plan for big holiday celebrations are moving forward with anticipation.

Even though the atmosphere in today's world is somewhat different than it was years ago, children will always be eager and filled with enthusiasm as they look to receive some of the gifts they have asked for and wanted during the year.

Some of us love to drive through neighborhoods, where bright Christmas decorations are everywhere, while others simply are “people watchers” during this time of year, as we run to and fro, picking up gifts and making other preparations. Christmas is considered by most of us as the biggest holiday of the year.

Christmas is a great time of year, for many of us, but, a large amount of citizens wish the Christmas holiday season would come and go as fast as possible.

It's hard to get caught up in the excitement of anything when we can't be an active participant in one way or another.

If we don't have money to spend on making purchases for those we



Thomas Vincent Murphy  
Murph's Positive Reflections

love, we can't go shopping. If our means don't allow us to prepare a big family dinner for family and close friends, we can't shop for the groceries we would need to do so. One of the hardest things to do is to tell our children we are unable to buy them what they would like to have, because we simply don't have the funds. When our children are at the age when they think their parents can do anything, and we are just trying to survive, Christmas can become a bad time of year.

The manner in which we celebrate holidays in our homes is a major factor in how we make it through the tough times. When our children, very early in their lives, see us being thankful and praising God regularly — and not just on the Thanksgiving holiday — they learn early that it's not just about the big Thanksgiving meal and spending time with family. They

are raised being more thankful for their many blessings than being caught up in a holiday. If we teach our children early in life about the importance of the birth of Jesus, and how He was born to die for us, they will see there is more substance to Christmas than just buying and receiving gifts.

When we remember the real “reason for the season,” we will be able to handle the holiday season in a much better way. Even though we know the importance of having money to do things with, we must teach our children early in life that money's not everything. A small gift given with love is as important in meaning as an expensive one given only for show. In some instances, it is the thought that counts.

One of the best ways for us to come out of the “holiday blues” is to do something for someone less fortunate than us. If we take the time to lift our heads up and stop feeling sorry for ourselves, we will find many people that need a helping hand — and it doesn't always have to be tangible to be affective.

Thomas Vincent Murphy is syndicated online via LifeTalk Radio and Loud Cry Radio. He is a writer, arranger and producer of music, and the author of “Wake Up Crazy World.” He can be reached at tvamj@yahoo.com.

Engagement

## Hughes, Caro



Mr. and Mrs. Dell Hughes of Marianna, FL are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Danielle to David Caro of Birmingham, AL, son of Miguel and Noemi Caro of Acworth, GA. A spring wedding is planned in Oneonta, AL.

## Florida food pantries grateful, still in need

The Associated Press

FORT WALTON BEACH — Volunteers at the Sharing & Caring food pantry can breathe a bit easier.

It's Christmas. And, as Sharing & Caring of Fort Walton Beach president Ken Winzeler said, Christmas is the season of giving.

“It's amazing,” Winzeler said, showing off a storage shed stocked with canned goods. “This is the stuff that has come in the last week or two. People will just buy cans of food that are on sale, or just pick up something at the grocery store.”

This year alone, the nonprofit has served over 4,000 individuals. Winzeler said although the seasonal overflow is more than appreciated

and greatly needed, the Sharing & Caring staff is bracing for the new year. It's after the gifts have been given, he said, that help is needed the most.

“Our shelves are much fuller during the holidays,” Winzeler said. “If you come back in January or February, you may not see any food at all. Also, anytime between late spring and early fall is when we struggle the most.”

Candy Nowling, executive director of the Matrix Community Outreach Center in Walton County, agreed.

“Those who donate forget that people are in need in January, February and March. I would just encourage people to remember that when people struggle, it takes a little while to recuperate.”

State Brief

Tourists can return to Islamorada's Amara Cay Resort and Marathon's Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters on Friday.

The Keys reopened to visitors Oct. 1, and most tourism facilities in less-affected Key Largo and Key West quickly recovered. But many

properties elsewhere in the Keys were significantly impacted.

Tourism officials say 32 percent of Islamorada hotel rooms are available, compared to more than 90 percent in Key West and 76 percent in Key Largo.

From wire reports

## BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES



Saturday, December 16, 2017

BIRTHDAYS

Betty H. Crawford  
Don Morris  
Janine Gilbert McMillan  
Jose Cortes  
Logan David McDonald  
Sammy Basford  
Tommy Hamilton

ANNIVERSARIES  
Debbie & Larry Cloud  
Wanda & David Cox

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

BIRTHDAYS

Aimee Pelt Stuckey  
Andrew Parish Oshesky  
Carol Dunaway  
Chad Carr  
David Pelt  
Phoebe Stubblefield  
Reece Kunde

ANNIVERSARY  
Don & Helen Caughran

Sunday, December 17, 2017

BIRTHDAYS

Arrie White  
Christine Swails  
Henry Rich

ANNIVERSARIES  
David & Renea Hilton

Monday, December 18, 2017

BIRTHDAYS

April Green Gibson  
Carolyn Glass  
Cheri Booth  
Emma Jo Smith  
Ginny Busby  
Haley Pelt  
Isabella Vaughn  
Mel McLure Clark  
Parker Nicole Bryan  
Ralph Hobbs  
Ronald Speights  
Steven May  
Trentan Goodwin  
Wilanne Daniels

ANNIVERSARIES  
Tom & Joan Stadskev  
Jeff & Inez Glattfelder

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

**Saturday, Dec. 16:** CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 76. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 71. Actor Xander Berkeley is 62. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 58. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 54. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 54. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 52.

**Sunday, Dec. 17:** Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 87. Pope Francis is 81. Actor Bill Pullman is 64. Actor Barry Livingston is 64. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 47. Actress Claire Forlani is 46. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 44. Actress Sarah Paulson is 43.

**Monday, Dec. 18:** Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 71. Actor Brad Pitt is 54. Professional wrestler-turned-actor “Stone Cold” Steve Austin is 53. Actress Katie Holmes is 39. Actress Ashley Benson is 28.

**Tuesday, Dec. 19:** Actress Jennifer Beals is 54. Actor Derek Webster is 49. Actress Kristy Swanson is 48. Actress Alyssa Milano is 45. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal is 37.

The Associated Press

**Birthdays, anniversaries and memorials are provided by the Pilot Club of Marianna Inc.**

The Pilot Club of Marianna is a group of executive, business and professional leaders working together to improve the quality of life in our community and throughout the world. For more information about Pilot or the Pilot Club community birthday calendar, call Claudia Smith at 482-7507.

## School MENU

Week of Dec. 18-22

Monday, December 18

Breakfast  
Assorted Breakfast Loaves  
Fruit Choice  
Milk Choice

Lunch

Choice of:  
Popcorn Chicken & Dinner Roll or Hotdog on a Bun

Sides:

Maple Glazed Carrots  
Crunchy Celery Sticks  
Fruit Choice  
Milk Choice

Tuesday, December 19

Breakfast  
Sausage Biscuit  
Fruit Choice  
Milk Choice

Lunch

Choice of:  
French Toast Sticks with Eggs and Sausage or Hamburger on a Bun

Sides:

Smiley Fries  
Crunchy Celery Sticks  
Fruit Choice  
Milk Choice

Wednesday, December 20

No School

Thursday, December 14

No School

Friday, December 15

No School

## Marriages/Divorces

### Marriages (Dec. 4-8)

Sean Michael Toole and Miranda Leigh Moats  
Jamme Mitchel Bowers and Jennifer Renee Sisco  
Kenneth Emany Grooms Jr. and Janai Breion Mills  
Edwardo Rodriguez and Tanya Lynn Skeens  
William Timothy Maloy and Dorinda Ann Burgess  
Christopher Lashawn Smith and Mylasha Dominique Henderson

### Divorces (Dec. 4-8)

Wesley O'Connor vs. Kristy O'Connor



LOOKING FOR MORE NEWS? VISIT

WWW.JCFLORIDAN.COM

# GRAND RIDGE CHRISTMAS PARADE



PHOTOS BY MARK SKINNER/FLORIDIAN



Boarding Dogs/Cats, Daycamp, Grooming

850-372-4064

2844 Callaway Street

Marianna FL 32446

**Get healthy, get happy,  
get a dog!**

We are less than a month away from a new year! Over half of all New Year's resolutions in America revolve around losing weight and leading a healthier lifestyle. One of the first steps to achieving these goals may be as simple as adopting a dog or spending more time with the dog you already have. Just 15 minutes a day being in close contact with or petting your dog can increase oxytocin and reduce cortisol levels which in turn reduces stress and helps fast track weight loss. One step further, taking your dog for a walk or jog can help achieve weight loss goals while reducing your risk for heart disease. Reduced stress and increased exercise can also reduce risk of heart attack by 11%. Owning a dog is great for the health of your children as well. Not only do some studies show that interaction with dogs can help with a child's mental development, but reports in Science Daily show a boost in immune system and lower risk of developing allergies and eczema in direct correlation with dogs as companions. Owning a dog could even save your life. Tests reported in the British Medical Journal as well as by doctors in Tallahassee show that some dogs may be able to sniff out various types of cancer, especially melanoma, even before other tests.

Please think adoption first when choosing your life style changing companion. Not only can you better your life by owning a dog, you can change a rescue dogs life at the same time.



## Stefanie Barnes, CNM, ARNP Joins the Practice



We welcome Board Certified Nurse Midwife and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Stefanie Barnes to Chipola Surgical & Medical Specialties - OB/GYN.

Stefanie began her career as a Labor and Delivery nurse at Christiana Hospital and then worked as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse at Al DuPont. In 2013, she earned a Master's of Science in Nursing from The Frontier School of Nursing - Midwifery in Kentucky. As she finished her degree, she was recruited by a large Delaware OB/GYN practice where she delivered over 300 babies. In addition to obstetrics, Stefanie provides well-care, contraceptive care, menopausal and total woman care for patients ages 12 and older.

Stefanie's practice philosophy focuses on the overall health of her patients including a balanced approach to diet, psychological wellbeing, wellness checks, and communication. She listens to her patients and understands the many aspects that affect a woman's health whether she is entering adolescence, starting a family, premenopausal or post menopausal. Stefanie is married to Christopher Barnes, and they live in Marianna with their three children.

Stefanie joins Dr. Orlando Muniz, Dr. Ricky Leff, and D. Michelle Baber, ARNP, with Chipola Surgical & Medical Specialties. The practice is located in Suite 209 in the Hudnall Medical Building at 4230 Hospital Drive, Marianna. Stefanie is accepting new OB and gynecological patients.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 850.526.6711.



**Chipola Surgical & Medical Specialties**

**OB/GYN**

jackson-hospital

Growing Healthier@jacksonhospfl

4230 Hospital Drive, Suite 209 / Marianna, FL 32446 / 850.526.6711 / www.jacksonhosp.com

# GRAND RIDGE CHRISTMAS PARADE



PHOTOS BY MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN





St. Anne  
**CATHOLIC**  
CHURCH

AND

*Saint Joseph the Worker*

*Holiday Services*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS:**  
SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2017  
St. Joseph the Worker @ 5:00pm  
St. Anne Catholic Church @ 6:30pm

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**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS:**  
MONDAY, DEC. 25, 2017  
St. Anne Catholic Church @ 8:30am  
St. Joseph the Worker @ 11:00am

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**ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
3009 5th St. • Marianna, FL 32446  
(850) 482-3734

**SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER**  
1664 Main St. • Chipley, FL 32428  
(850) 638-7654

[www.stannemarianna.com](http://www.stannemarianna.com)



## In Loving Memory



*As we look toward our future we also reflect on the past and the people that contributed so much in our lives.*

On Saturday, December 23, 2017, the *Floridan* will publish its annual **In Loving Memory** page. If you would like to pay tribute to a loved one who you have lost, send the following information along with a photo and payment of \$20.00 to:

**In Loving Memory**  
c/o Jackson County Floridan  
4403 Constitution Lane  
Marianna, FL 32448

or drop by our office at this same location **between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM.**  
Deadline is Monday, December 18, 2017, at 5:00PM.

Name of Loved One: _____	 <b>Betty Smith</b> 1921 - 2005 We miss you! Your Loving Husband, and Children <small>Ad Size Larger Than It Appears.</small>
Year Born: _____	
Year Died: _____	
Message (12 words or less): _____	
Phone Number: _____	

Publisher  
VALERIA ROBERTS

Another View

# Bad behavior mars big win

A few Seattle Seahawks players — and a few obnoxious fans — tried to ruin a great Jacksonville Jaguars win on Sunday. It's customary when the outcome is settled for the winning quarterback to take a knee while the clock winds down. But Sunday, Seattle defensive star Michael Bennett dove at the knees of Jaguars center Brandon Linder, a tactic that could have seriously injured Linder. Bennett was supposedly trying to strip the football, which is legal. Nevertheless, this was the ultimate cheap shot and broke every official rule of sportsmanship and the unwritten rules among the brotherhood of football players. Football is a tough game that often results in injuries similar to those from car accidents. A brawl broke out with Seahawks tackle Sheldon Richardson throwing a punch. After the second kneeldown, Seattle tackle Quinton Jefferson was ejected. Meanwhile, the Jaguars kept their composure in admirable fashion. But a few Jags fans behaved poorly. One fan threw a bottle at Seahawks receiver Tyler Lockett after his earlier touchdown, Times-Union reporter Ryan O'Halloran reported. And after the kneeldowns, several fans threw debris at Jefferson. This all calls for tough action. The Jags have promised that the offending fans, once identified, will be suspended from attending games. But the NFL has so far decided not to severely discipline Bennett or the other Seahawks responsible for the on-field mayhem. That's unfortunate. The Jaguars are entering good times that haven't been seen around here in some years. It shouldn't be spoiled by a handful of misbehaving players and fans.

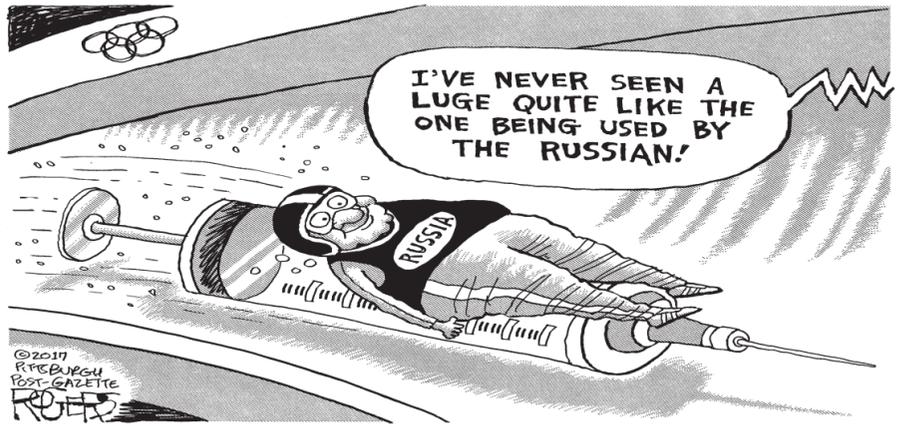
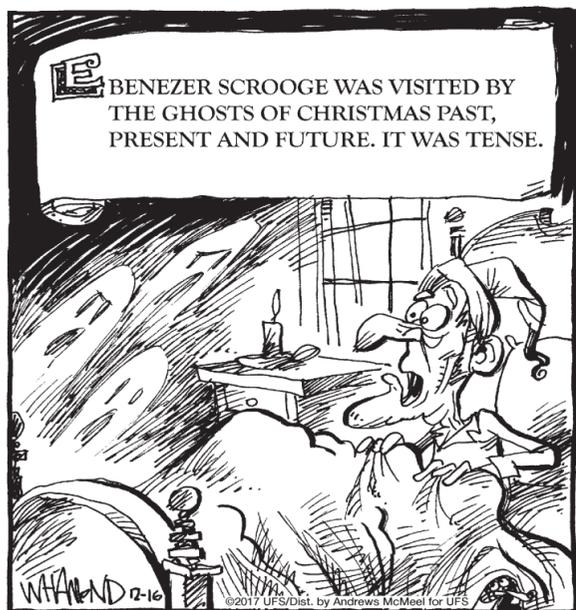
The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville

Another View

# A tyke's newest toy: Facebook

Milestones when your child reaches age 6: Her first baby tooth comes out. He wobbles through his first bike ride. She can count to 100, and his vocabulary tops 5,000 words. Now there's a new rite of passage — that first Facebook chat. Yes, Facebook has made it possible. Mark Zuckerberg's social media giant has unveiled a Messenger Kids app that allows children under 13 and as young as 6 to text, video chat and send photos. Parents' approval is required, and parents also must sign off on every new person added to their child's contact list. Parents, and not their children, create the account. Kids 13 and older are allowed to use Facebook as any adult does. Facebook says kids are spending more time on smartphones and tablets and their app offers a controlled environment to connect with relatives and friends. "Right now for kids, the time they spend on devices is very passive," David Marcus, vice president of messaging products at Facebook, told The New York Times. The app comes with Snapchat-style filters such as playful masks that can be applied to photos kids send. Facebook also stresses that Messenger Kids will be ad-free. Alas, the winds of change have turned into gales. For communication and safety reasons, it's common now for children under 13 to have smartphones. Preteens text and call each other, they Snapchat one another, they freely exchange Instagram images. It's a social-media world. But that's where parental stewardship, and common sense, come into play. A kid who's 11 or 12 probably can find some utility in Messenger Kids. But a child who's 6 or 7? At 6, most kids are still honing the rough edges of their burgeoning language skills. And 6 or 7 seems young for a kid to wade into the dicey, you-can't-take-it-back nature of social media. Facebook says its goal is not to turn today's tykes into tomorrow's customers. Yet the Messenger Kids' privacy policy lays out the raft of data Facebook will be collecting on children. Aside from their names, it includes the texts, videos and audio they send, information on whom they interact with, data on which of the app's bells and whistles they use, and how long they use them. The policy also states that Facebook reserves the right to share information collected in the Messenger Kids app with other Facebook services. With all of that data collection, some parents will wonder whether Facebook is grooming future users. "Why should parents simply trust that Facebook is acting in the best interest of children?" James Steyer, chief executive of Common Sense Media, told The Times. Social media is here to stay. But it's incumbent on parents to keep an eagle eye on their kids' social media use and head off online overindulgence at the expense of in-the-flesh interaction with real people in the real world.

The Chicago Tribune



# Former spy rethinks attacks on new president

“Mr. Trump continues to exhibit paranoia about American intelligence agencies,” wrote the NeverTrump conservative Max Boot in the New York Times a week or so before the president took office.

“Consumed by his paranoia about the deep state, Donald Trump has disappeared into the fog of his own conspiracy theories,” declared the Times’ Maureen Dowd.

“Paranoia seizes Trump’s White House,” reported Politico, noting the suspicion that “career intelligence operatives are working to undermine the new president.”

Actually, they were. “It’s no mystery why Trump doesn’t trust U.S. intelligence agencies,” Bloomberg’s Eli Lake wrote last month. “As the old saying goes: Just because you’re paranoid doesn’t mean they’re not out to get you. Trump understandably believes the intelligence agencies are out to get him.”

Of course, leaders in the intelligence community would deny they are out to get the president. But in an extraordinary new interview, one CIA veteran who served in the agency from 1980 to 2013, who briefed presidents on the most sensitive issues of the day, and is still a prominent voice in intelligence matters is at least conceding that he can understand why the president feels the way he does.

Michael Morell stayed out of politics when he served as the CIA’s number-two official. He was the classic non-partisan operative who served the office, and not the man. “I worked at this nonpolitical agency, bright red line between intelligence and policy, and intelligence and politics,” Morell told Politico’s Susan Glasser this week.

Until Trump. In August 2016, the retired-but-still-active-in-intelligence-matters Morell decided to abandon decades of non-partisanship and come out in support of Hillary Clinton. In a New York Times op-ed, he praised Clinton’s experience and called Trump a



Byron York

danger to the nation, a threat to its “foundational values,” and an “unwitting agent” for Russia.

Some of Morell’s former colleagues in the intelligence community took the same step. Gen. Michael Hayden, a former CIA director, blasted Trump as Russia’s “useful fool.” Another former top CIA officer, Michael Vickers, pronounced Trump unfit. And the agency’s then-director, John Brennan, openly clashed with Trump.

These were all men who came out of the non-political tradition of American intelligence. And all chose, for the first time, to publicly take sides in a presidential campaign.

Of course, it’s safe to say that each assumed Clinton would win. But when Trump prevailed, amazingly enough, he thought the intelligence agencies were against him.

“Let’s put ourselves in Donald Trump’s shoes,” Morell said to Glasser. “So what does he see? Right? He sees a former director of CIA and a former director of NSA, Mike Hayden ... criticizing him and his policies. Right? And he would rightfully have said, ‘Huh, what’s going on with the intelligence guys?’”

“And then he sees a former acting director and deputy director of CIA criticizing him and endorsing his opponent,” Morell continued. “And then he gets his first intelligence briefing, after becoming the Republican nominee, and within 24 to 48 hours, there are leaks out of that that are critical of him and his then-national security adviser Mike Flynn.”

“And so, this stuff starts to build, right? And he must have said to himself, ‘What is it with these intelligence guys? Are they politi-

cal?’” The answer to that was simple: Yes, they were political. But the astonishing part of the Morell interview is his admission that at the time he did not stop to consider what was happening from Trump’s perspective, even as the leaks continued when Trump took office. “He must have thought, ‘Who are these guys?’” Morell said. “Are these guys out to get me? Is this a political organization?”

The first time Trump met the FBI’s then-director, James Comey, was when the intelligence chiefs chose Comey to tell Trump, then the president-elect, about a collection of “salacious and unverified” (Comey’s words) allegations about Trump, compiled by operatives working for the Clinton campaign, that has since become known as the Trump dossier. That surely got Trump off to a good start with the FBI’s intelligence-gathering operation. It was also a clever way for the intel chiefs to push the previously-secret dossier into the public conversation, when news leaked that Comey had briefed the president on it.

And on and on it went. Could anyone blame the new president for believing the intelligence agencies were after him?

Trump’s fellow New Yorker, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, warned the president against messing with the spy organizations. “Let me tell you: You take on the intelligence community, they have six ways from Sunday of getting back at you,” Schumer said in January.

Indeed, they did. And now, Michael Morell admits he went after the new president without even considering what that might mean. “I think there was a significant downside to those of us who became political,” he told Glasser. “So, if I could have thought of that, would I have ended up in a different place? I don’t know. But it’s something I didn’t think about.”

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

# Thoughts after the Alabama Senate election

By Nathan L. Gonzales

One of the best parts about covering elections is that there is always a result. After all the prognosticating, projecting, discussing and arguing, there’s a winner. But determining the true meaning of victory and loss can be difficult.

There will be plenty of time to analyze the Alabama Senate special election (at least until the next special election on March 13 in Pennsylvania’s 18th District), but here are some initial post-election thoughts:

This was a historic victory for Doug Jones. Of course, Roy Moore had some unparalleled flaws as a candidate, but Jones overcame a 20-point deficit in partisan performance to win. The last Democrat to win a Senate race in Alabama was Sen. Richard C. Shelby in 1992, and he’s now the state’s senior senator as a Republican. This upset will be talked about for years to come.

The seat is more important than being a bellwether. In the short term, Jones’ victory narrows the Republican majority, making it more difficult to pass legislation next year. In the longer term, it puts Democrats one seat closer to the majority in 2019. It was also the most difficult seat of the three-seat gain Democrats need, considering the party has better takeover opportunities in Nevada and Arizona next year. They still have to run the table for a majority, but it’s now easier with the special election victory in Alabama. Republicans avoid one head-

ache. Jones in the Senate puts Democrats closer to the majority, but at least Republicans on the Hill will avoid the endless questions about what to do with Roy Moore.

The Republican civil war isn’t over. Moore’s allies, Trump supporters, and Steve Bannon will likely blame the loss on the GOP establishment for abandoning Moore, while anti-Moore Republicans will blame the likes of Bannon for supporting a candidate who was unelectable beyond the primary. The fight for the heart and soul of the GOP isn’t over.

Gotta give Jones and the Democrats credit. Moore and the Republicans did their best to give this race away, but Democrats still needed to run a terrific campaign to overcome the state’s partisan lean. They had to thread multiple needles, including attracting funding from Democrats across the country without giving the appearance of a nationalized race.

It’s not impossible for a Democrat to win a state that Trump carried by nearly 30 points, but boy, did it take a lot. Democrats won’t have the luxury of running against an alleged child molester in races around the country, but the good news for the party is that they don’t have to win in many areas as Republican as Alabama to win majorities in the House and Senate. The two candidates who have to pull off similar feats as Jones next year for Democrats to win a majority are Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota (where Trump won by 36 points) and Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia (where Trump won by 42 points).

But both of them start from a stronger position than Jones.

The House majority was at risk before Alabama and the House majority is at risk after Alabama. It’s unclear how applicable the Jones victory is to House races given the unique circumstances surrounding Moore as a candidate. But Democrats won’t need to win districts as Republican as Alabama to net the 24 seats necessary for a majority. If they can replicate the turnout of African-American voters, that would boost their prospects in some districts. But that’s still unclear and doesn’t necessarily apply to every race.

It was a good night for the polling average. Neither result should have been a surprise, considering Moore had a narrow 48 percent to 46 percent advantage in the final RealClearPolitics average. But that was much closer to the final outcome than late polling which showed Moore with a 9-point lead (Emerson College) and Jones with a 10-point lead (FOX News).

Overall, a relatively small percentage of Americans vote. Even though turnout was higher than expected, about 35 percent of voting-age Alabamians chose to vote in the most highly-publicized election in the state in recent history.

2018 is going to be a heck of a ride. With dozens of races happening simultaneously and uncertain midterm elections, next year’s midterm projections should be another historic moment with a potential Democratic comeback just two years after humiliating losses.

Nathan L. Gonzales writes for CQ-Roll Call.

**Obituary**

**Lanier-Andler  
Funeral Home  
Sneads, Florida  
850-593-9900**



**Robert "Bob" Johnson**

Robert "Bob" Johnson, age 83, of Bainbridge, Georgia passed away peacefully from this earth on Friday, December 15, 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida.

"Bob" was a US Navy Veteran and served during the Korean War. He had lived in this area since 1975, coming from Wildwood, Florida and was a member of Recovery United Methodist Church. "Bob" was a 55 year Master Mason who had served as District Deputy Grand Master and Past Master of Baldwin Lodge 217 F&AM and GEE Lodge 21 F&AM of Chattahoochee, FL. He was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and Member of the Marzuq Shrine in Tallahassee, FL. His trips transporting children to Shriners Hospitals in Galveston, TX and Tampa, FL involved over 10,000 miles.

"Bob" is survived by his loving and devoted wife Sylvia Johnson; three daughters, Eula Johnson Walker (Mike) of Tallahassee, FL, Roxanne Holden (Guy) of Woodville, FL and Barbara Hertzog (John)

of Jacksonville, FL; three sons, Greg Johnson (Stephanie) of Havana, FL, Jessie Johnson (Angel) of Tallahassee, FL and Michael Lample (Darlene) of Tallahassee, FL; one brother; five sisters; sixteen grandchildren and twenty-six great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Don and Jim Johnson; one brother and two sisters.

Visitation with the family will be held at Lanier-Andler Funeral Home in Sneads, FL on Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM EST and a Celebration of Life Service will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 beginning at 11:00 AM EST at Recovery United Methodist Church in Recovery, Georgia. Interment Service will follow at Cool Springs Cemetery in Faceville, Georgia. Masonic Rites will be given in his honor by the Masonic Lodge and full military honors will be presented by American Legion Post 241.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children ATTN: Office of Development 2900 N. Rocky Point Drive Tampa, FL 33607.

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**CHIPOLA NAMES EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**

Elissa Severson was named Chipola College's Career Employee for November. Severson serves as a department associate in the assessment, compliance and grants department and has worked at the college since 2008. From left are Dr. Matthew Hughes, dean of assessment, compliance and grants; Elissa Severson; and Chipola President Sarah Clemmons.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Steve Young has been selected the Chipola College Faculty/Administrator/Other Professional Award of the month for December. Young is the vice president of administrative and business affairs and has worked at the college since 1997. From left, are Steve Young and Chipola president Sarah Clemmons.



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**Crash Brief**

**One dead in Jackson County crash**

Curtis Dean Rowan, 64, of Greenwood was pronounced dead at Jackson Hospital Tuesday, after a one-vehicle traffic crash on Cypress Grove Road in Jackson County.

Florida Highway Patrol reports that Rowan was driving a 1984 International

truck southbound around 12:42 p.m. when the vehicle travelled off the east shoulder of the road and collided with two fences and a tree. The truck came to rest against the tree.

Rowan was transported to Jackson Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 1:29 p.m.

From staff reports

**Dispatch**

From Page 1A

workable situation possible right now, in the face of continuing risk to his dispatchers and expensive equipment in the old building.

"I'm not crazy about having them somewhere else, but technology today does allow good connectivity with the office, so I can't disagree that this is a good solution under our circumstances," Roberts said Thursday. He's getting some new dispatch equipment that costs several thousand dollars and will only be put in use once the new

structure is in place.

Architect Paul Donofro Jr. was authorized by the county Tuesday to develop conceptual plans for the dispatch center there.

Robert said that, although dispatch will be moving into an area that will be designed in such a way as to no longer give the public direct walk-in access to the communications officers, he will be leaving a phone in the foyer at the Sheriff's Office so that visitors can pick up and be directly connected to those officers if they're needed.

The sheriff will keep his administrative functions and offices where they are and a new roof will be put on that structure to keep the rain out.

**Padgett**

From Page 1A

salary of \$42,000 a year. He held that post from February 1987 to January 1990, leaving to take the job with Santa Rosa County.

He and interim adminis-

trator Pam Pichard were the only two of 22 original candidates to be interviewed for the Jackson County job, as three of the top-ranked five eventually dropped out of the running and no further interviews were scheduled for the remaining five.

**COSTUME DESIGNER VISITS CHIPOLA**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chipola College guest costume designer Zac West recently met with Chipola theater humanities students to discuss the concepts and background that go into costume design. West is creating more than 50 costumes for the upcoming production of "The Little Mermaid." Here, West shows the design and build of one of the sea creatures. West is a costume union professional with Broadway credit of "On the Town," "Dames at Sea," and "Bandstand." He most recently served as personal wardrobe assistant to Academy Award winner Joel Grey for Broadway's revival of "The Cherry Orchard." He also works closely with Netflix production and films. This is his fourth Chipola musical as costume designer under the direction of Charles Sirmon, Chipola Theatre director.

**Programs**

From Page 1A

and lasts a little more than an hour. Harrell has high expectations for the show. "It's going to be hilarious and inspirational," she promises. "We're hoping to fill the church both nights, so come on out for a great and fun show."

The play will also include a Christmas solo by Harrell's 10-year-old granddaughter, Nadalyn Harrell. She'll sing "Christmas is a Time to Love," by Teresa Jennings.

Cast members include adults Sandra Harrell, John Hamilton, Laurie Hamilton, Judy Croft, Joyce Sproul, Jean Her-ring, Chuck Dickson, Randal Segers, Elaine Segers, Sandy Harn, Bud Edwards, Bill Neel, Linda Neel, Dollie Harn, Alana Green, Debbie Richards; and children Rebecca Young, Cheyenne Young, Reanna Harrell, JJ Harrell,



PHOTO BY SANDRA HARRELL

**Members of the Grand Ridge Baptist Church rehearse for "A Cricket County Christmas Carol."**

Nadalyn Harrell, Sydney Green, Hadley Green. Sandra Harrell directs.

Some other churches are also offering Christmas programs this weekend and later in the month:

**Hickory Grove to host Christmas presentation**

Hickory Grove Church, at 5787 Grove Road in Bascom, will present "God's Presents...The Miracle of Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. Food and fellowship

will follow the presentation.

**Christmas at New Hope MBC**

Rev. L. V. Farmer and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church at 3996 Wintergreen Road in the Greenwood/Two Egg community will hold its annual Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m.

**Christmas musical at Lovedale Baptist**

Lovedale Baptist

Church will present a Christmas musical, "The Greatest Story Ever Told," at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. The church is at 6595 Lovedale Road in the Lovedale/Two Egg community. Call 592-5415 or 592-6951.

**McChapel AME offers Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve services**

McChapel AME church, located at 4963 Old U.S. Road, will host a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, beginning at 8 a.m., to be followed by church school at 9:30 a.m. The church will also have a Watch Night New Year's Eve service beginning at 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31. Breakfast will be served after the service, which will include testimonies, singing and a message from the Rev. Chris Jordan. He will also be the speaker for the Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24.

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# LIGHTS OF LOVE

The Lights of Love ceremony was put on by the Jackson Hospital Foundation. Foundation President Tom Sherrel (left) is seen presenting a check for \$11,940 to John Milton, the chairman of the Jackson Hospital Board of Trustees. This year's donation will be used to help outfit rooms in radiology.



PHOTOS BY MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

Karen Smith leads the Golson Elementary Second Grade Chorus as they perform Christmas songs at the 27th annual Lights of Love Ceremony at Jackson Hospital. Smith had retired from teaching music, but she came back to Golson as a volunteer to help the chorus get ready for their performance Thursday night.



# Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary THE OAKS RESTAURANT

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# COMMUNITY

## CALENDAR



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- » **Marianna City Farmers Market**—7 a.m. to noon. Jackson County Growers Association, Inc., Madison Street Park, Marianna. Open Saturday's thru Dec. 30.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting**—8 a.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.
- » **Free Food Giveaway**—8 a.m. at Cypress Creek Community Church, 1772 Macedonia Road, Alford. Must be a Florida resident to receive food and must be present. One per household. For more, call 718-7311 or 638-0360.
- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Jackson County Community Helpers Club**—10 a.m. 4571 Dickson Road, Greenwood.
- » **Holiday Safari**—11 a.m. at the Graceville Branch Library. Participants will select, from beneath the Christmas tree, a present containing a clue about one of the surprise guest animals.
- » **Free Lunch and Clothing Giveaway**—11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Greenwood park. Sponsored by It's All About Jesus Ministries. For more, call Pastor Bobbie Donaldson at 718-7712.
- » **Holiday Safari**—2 p.m. at Citizens Lodge, Marianna. Participants will select, from beneath the Christmas tree, a present containing a clue about one of the surprise guest animals.
- » **Free Audition Workshop**—2 p.m. with Chipola College Theatre, for Disney's The Little Mermaid, in the Center for the Arts. For more, call 718-2227.
- » **The Miracle of Christmas**—5 p.m. at Hickory Grove Church, 5787 Grove Road, Bascom. Food and fellowship after service.
- » **Christmas presentation: "God's Presents...The Miracle of Christmas"**—5 p.m. at Hickory Grove Church, at 5787 Grove Road, Bascom. Food and fellowship follow the presentation. All are invited.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

- » **Senior Citizens Day**—11 a.m. at McChapel AME Church, 4963 Old US Road, Marianna. Guest speaker: Minister Lonnie Gilbert. Colors for the day are green and white. For more, call Sheryl White at 557-9044.
- » **Christmas Program**—11 a.m. at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3996 Wintergreen Road, Greenwood/Two Egg. Public welcome.
- » **Trial Sermon**—3 p.m. at Sunrise Worship Center, 2957 Hall St., Marianna. Guest: Bro. Samuel L. Milton. For more, call 209-2350.
- » **Christmas Musical**—6 p.m. "The Greatest Story Ever Told" musical presented by The Lovedale Baptist Church, 6595 Lovedale Road in the Lovedale/Two Egg community. For more, call 592-5415 or 592-6951.
- » **Christmas play: "A Cricket County Christmas Carol"**—6 p.m. nightly, Dec. 17-18, at Grand Ridge Baptist Church, SR 69 south. Play by Eddie McPherson offers a country take on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Admission: free.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Discussion**—6:30 p.m. in AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Attendance limited to persons with a desire to stop drinking.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

- » **St. Anne Thrift Store**—Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 3. Reopen Thurs. Jan 4 at 9 a.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Call 482-3734.
- » **Chipola Chapter NSDAR Meeting**—10:45 a.m. at The Oaks Restaurant, Marianna. Guest speaker: Annette Blanchette. For more, call 482-6600.
- » **Christmas Potluck Luncheon and Program**—Noon in the Youth Center of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St., Marianna for the Senior Fellowship Association. Guest soloist: Peggy Cox.
- » **Christmas play: "A Cricket County Christmas Carol"**—6 p.m. nightly, Dec. 17-18, at Grand Ridge Baptist Church, SR 69 south. Play by Eddie McPherson offers a country take on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Admission: free.
- » **Chipola Beekeepers Meeting**—6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jackson County Extension Office, 2741 Penn Ave., Marianna. Bring a dish for the potluck supper. Call 482-9620.
- » **Breaking Free**—7 p.m. to 8 p.m. A closed SAA group is a 12-step fellowship of men and women recovering from addictive sexual behavior. For more info and location call Shawn at 693-1621 email BreakingFreeSAA@yahoo.com.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- » **St. Anne Thrift Store**—Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 3. Reopen Thurs. Jan 4 at 9 a.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Call 482-3734.
- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Country Gospel Band**—10 a.m. at the Jackson County Senior Citizens, 2931 Optimist Dr., Marianna. For more,

call 482-5028.

- » **Beginner/players Pinochle**—10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and play. For more information and location call 272-6611.
- » **Foot Doctor at Senior Citizens**—10:30 a.m. at Jackson County Senior Citizens, 5400 Cliff St., Graceville. For more, call 263-4650.
- » **Optimist Club of Jackson County Meeting**—Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. All visitors welcome.
- » **Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System Board Meeting**—4 p.m. at 2862 Madison St., Marianna.
- » **Jackson County School Board Meeting**—4 p.m. at 2903 Jefferson St., Marianna. Public welcome. Agenda posted at JCSB.org. Call 482-1200.
- » **School Board Executive Session**—at the Jackson County School Board, 2903 Jefferson St., Marianna. Immediately following the 4 p.m. Board Meeting.



- » **Jackson County NAACP Meeting**—6 p.m. at St. James AME, 2891 Orange St., Marianna.
- » **Disabled American Veterans Meeting**—6 p.m. at the DAV Chapter 22 house, 3083 DAV Lane, Marianna (N. of Hwy 71 off Blue Spring Hwy.). Call Leon Kelly 209-4310.
- » **Graceville Lions Club Meeting**—6:30 p.m. Circle Grill. Contact Tom Heddle at 272-0101 for more information.
- » **Dare to Live Healed - Healing School Class**—7 p.m. in the Bascom Town Hall at 4969 Basswood Road. Free classes taught by Jacquelyn McGriff. Call 276-6024.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Meeting**—8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Closed discussion with 12 & 12 study. Everyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- » **USDA Food Giveaway**—7:30 a.m. at Malone City Hall by Malone Methodist.
- » **USDA Food Giveaway**—8 a.m. at Eldercare Services, 2979 Daniels St., Marianna.
- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Malone Joy Club**—10 a.m. Joy Club House, S.R. 2, Malone. Lunch served at noon. Games following lunch. Come and join the fun.
- » **Food Pantry**—10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc., 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna. For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Blood drive**—10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at OneBlood Donor Center, 2503 Commercial Park Drive, Marianna. Donors receive a free OneBlood ornament and \$10 eGift Card, while supplies last, plus a free wellness checkup (blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, cholesterol screening). ID required. Ages: 16 and up. For more, call 1-888-9-DONATE (1-888-936-6283).
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting**—Noon to 1 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.
- » **Distributing Food to End Hunger**—12:30 until all food is gone. 8012 Hwy. 90 W., Sneads. Restoration Network is partnering with Mount Moriah Church, Sneads. Distributing the 2nd and 3rd weeks of the month only on Wednesdays. First come first served basis. For more information call 850-718-1514.
- » **Jackson Hospital Board of Trustees meeting**—5 p.m. in the hospital classroom, Marianna.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Drug/Alcohol Recovery Group**—9 a.m. at the Campbellton-Graceville Hospital. This is an open meeting. For more information call 263-4431.
- » **St. Anne Thrift Store**—Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 3. Reopen Thurs. Jan 4 at 9 a.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Call 482-3734.
- » **Art Class**—10:30 a.m. at Jackson County Senior Citizens Center, 2931 Optimist Dr., Marianna. Guest: Leah Armitage. For more, call 482-5028.
- » **Chipola Civic Club Meeting**—Noon at The Oaks Restaurant, U.S. 90 in Marianna. The CCC's focus is the local community, "Community, Children & Character." Call 526-3142.
- » **Marianna Kiwanis Club Meeting**—Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. Call 482-2290.
- » **Chess Club**—3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Marianna High School. Club is for MHS Students. For more information call 693-0473.
- » **ASK 4-H Club and Autism Support Group Meeting**—5:30-6:30 p.m. Jackson County Extension Office, 2741 Penn Ave., #3, Marianna. Family members, caregivers and service providers welcome to the Autism Support meeting. For more information call Ann Marie Shelton at 272-6099 or email caarcifo@gamil.com.
- » **VFW & Auxiliary Post #12046 Meeting**—6 p.m. at 2830 Wynn St., Marianna. Covered-dish supper. Call 850-447-3659.
- » **New Day Mental Health Support Group Meeting**—6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Christian Center Church on Sheffield Dr., Marianna. Individuals, family members and veterans are welcome. Speakers from the mental health care community and discussion time. For more information check out our facebook page or call 850-693-2033.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous**—Closed discussion, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia

St., Marianna, in the AA room. Attendance limited to persons with a desire to stop drinking; papers will not be signed.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Hooks and Needles**—10 a.m. at the Jackson County Public Library, Marianna Branch. New and experienced hand crafters welcome to create, share, learn or teach favorite projects. Call 482-9631.
- » **Blood drive**—10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at OneBlood Donor Center, 2503 Commercial Park Drive, Marianna. Donors receive a free OneBlood ornament and \$10 eGift Card, while supplies last, plus a free wellness checkup (blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, cholesterol screening). ID required. Ages: 16 and up. For more, call 1-888-9-DONATE (1-888-936-6283).
- » **Celebrate Recovery**—7 p.m. at Evangel Worship Center, 2645 Pebble Hill Road in Marianna. Adult and teen meetings to "overcome hurts, habits and hang-ups." Dinner: 6 p.m. Child care available. Call 209-7856, 573-1131.
- » **Youth Activity Night**—6 p.m. at Marianna Church of God. Ages: 12-19. Call 482-6264.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

- » **Marianna City Farmers Market**—7 a.m. to noon. Jackson County Growers Association, Inc., Madison Street Park, Marianna. Open Saturday's thru Dec. 30.
- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Open Meeting**—8 a.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna.
- » **Alford Community Health Clinic Hours**—10 a.m. until last patient is seen, at 1770 Carolina St. in Alford. The free clinic for income-eligible patients without medical insurance treats short-term illnesses and chronic conditions. Appointments available (call 272-0101 or 209-5501); walk-ins welcome. Sign in before 11 a.m.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- » **Christmas Eve service**—8 a.m. at McChapel AME church, 4963 Old U.S. Road. Speaker: Rev. Chris Jordan. Church school follows at 9:30 a.m.
- » **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, corner of Jefferson and Clinton St., Marianna. For more, call 526-2430.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Discussion**—6:30 p.m. in AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Attendance limited to persons with a desire to stop drinking.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

- » **Marianna Lions Club Meeting**—Noon at Jim's Buffet & Grill, 4329 Lafayette St., Marianna. Call 482-2005.
- » **Parkinson's Support Group Meeting**—Noon in the ground-floor classroom of Jackson Hospital. Lunch provided. Those diagnosed with Parkinson's and their caregivers are invited. No cost to participate. Call 718-2661.
- » **Breaking Free**—7 p.m. to 8 p.m. A closed SAA group is a 12-step fellowship of men and women recovering from addictive sexual behavior. For more info and location call Shawn at 693-1621 or email BreakingFreeSAA@yahoo.com.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **St. Anne Thrift Store**—Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 3. Reopen Thurs. Jan 4 at 9 a.m. St. Anne's Catholic Church, 3009 Fifth St., Marianna. Call 482-3734.
- » **Beginner/players Pinochle**—10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and play. For more information and location call 272-6611.
- » **Old Timers' Showdown Basketball Tournament**—Noon at Marianna High School. Instant photos, food, activities available. Winning squad gets \$300 cash prize and trophy. Registration fee: \$200 per team. To sign up, call 567-7849, 272-4208, 272-1606 or 526-6984. Maximum number of members per team: 10. Proceeds benefit the boys' basketball program.
- » **Optimist Club of Jackson County Meeting**—5:30 p.m. El Rio, Marianna. All visitors welcome.
- » **Dare to Live Healed - Healing School Class**—7 p.m. in the Bascom Town Hall at 4969 Basswood Road. Free classes taught by Jacquelyn McGriff. Call 276-6024.
- » **Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Meeting**—8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the AA room of First United Methodist Church, 2901 Caledonia St. in Marianna. Closed discussion with 12 & 12 study. Everyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- » **Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc. Thrift Store**—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna For more information call 573-5526.
- » **Food Pantry**—10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Innovative Charities of NW Florida, Inc., 1994 Hwy. 71 S, Marianna. Call 573-5526.
- » **Blood drive**—10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at OneBlood Donor Center, 2503 Commercial Park Drive, Marianna. Donors receive a free OneBlood ornament and \$10 eGift Card, while supplies last, plus a free wellness checkup (blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, cholesterol screening). ID required. Ages: 16 and up. For more, call 888-9-DONATE (888-936-6283).

## WW II VET VISITS CHIPOLA CIVIC CLUB

Captain Albert Lane (left) was introduced by Chipola Civic Club member Bruce Lambert at a recent meeting. Lane spoke to the club about his experiences as a B-17 pilot flying more than 40 missions over Germany, Holland, Italy and France during World War II.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## CHIPOLA STUDENTS VISIT TORREYA



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chipola College students in biology and environmental science classes recently hiked a three-mile segment of Torreya State Park trails with professors Dr. David Hilton, Amanda Clark and Dr. Santine Cuccio. The purpose was to deepen classroom studies on ecosystems, conservation, biodiversity, endangered species, hotspots and Florida flora and fauna. Students visited the rare Torreya and Yew understory trees, which are endemic to the Slope forest. Students also looked out over the Apalachicola River from a 125-foot bluff.

## OPTIMISTS WELCOME CHIPOLA HEALTHY START



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Marianna Optimist Club recently welcomed guest speaker Chipola Healthy Start Coalition Program Director Amy Riley (second from left), who talked about the services offered to pregnant women and families with babies younger than 3 — child-birth education, breastfeeding education, nutritional counseling and help to quit smoking. The services are based on prenatal or postnatal infant screening, not income. The Chipola coalition serves women and families in Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty counties. Riley is seen here with club president Jack Hollis (left), Dave Taylor of C.A.R.E., and Taylor Glisson. For more information about Health Start, visit [www.chipolahealthystart.org](http://www.chipolahealthystart.org).

## ROTARY WELCOMES EDDIE HOPKINS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A recent Marianna Rotary Club program, hosted by Robby Roberts of Jim Roberts Realty, featured Eddie Hopkins, of Hopkins Mahindra, who spoke of his family coming to Marianna in 1970 and growing from cars and trucks to now to include the Mahindra tractor franchise and equipment. The Mahindra line includes XTV all-terrain vehicles, implements and 25-85HP tractors. Hopkins Mahindra was recently awarded the Rookie Dealer of the Year award for performance and sales. The Rotary Club of Marianna supports our local businesses and ask that you to consider doing the same. From left, are Robby Roberts, Eddie Hopkins and Marianna Rotary Club President Joseph Alday.

### Local Briefs

#### Rex Lumber eyes expansion with new mill

Rex Lumber, headquartered in Graceville, is expanding with a greenfield sawmill in the Southeast. Rex currently operates three sawmills, two in the Florida Panhandle and one in Mississippi, producing a total of 575 million board feet annually. This will be Rex Lumber's third sawmill expansion in the last 17 years. The company says annual production for the new mill will be a minimum 240 MMBF and that several potential sites have been identified in the Southeast. Rex Lumber anticipates the total capital cost to be approximately \$110 million, including startup and working capital. Over 110 new direct jobs are expected to be created with this new location, officials with the firm said. A final decision on the project location is expected early 2018 with construction launching shortly after location is decided. Rex Lumber, founded in the 1920s by W.D. McRae, continues to be owned and operated by the Finley McRae family of Graceville. The family looks forward to bringing a southern yellow pine sawmill to a new commu-

nity in the South.

#### Class planned for first-time homebuyers

Marie Arick, Jackson County FCS Agent, will conduct the "My Florida Home, A Class for First-time Homebuyers" workshop for residents who are considering purchasing their first home. This class provides basic knowledge to aid individuals in understanding their personal finances, credit situation and the process of choosing a mortgage. Also explored are the family spending plan, the home inspection process and home maintenance. Potential new homeowners will also leave with some home conservation and preventative maintenance tips. The class, set for Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is offered at no charge, but pre-registration is required. Call 850-482-9620 or come by the Extension Office, 2741 Penn Ave., Suite 3, Marianna. There is no child care available for this event.

#### Take control of your financial health

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and the University of Florida Extension Service announce

the upcoming financial management program series, "Taking Control of Your Financial Health."

These free classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2018, and run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Jackson Agricultural Complex on Penn Avenue in Marianna. This five-class series will address debt management, credit reports, creating a budget, financial goals and much more.

Classes are open to anyone age 14 and up and families are encouraged to attend together. Make your financial resolutions a reality this year and reserve your seat and educational materials by calling 850-482-9620.

#### NAACP plans MLK Day events

Commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jackson County NAACP has three events planned for Monday, Jan. 15:

» **Prayer breakfast** — Starts at 7 a.m. in the Chipola College Cultural Center, 3094 Indian Circle in Marianna. Teacher Toyka Holden is the scheduled guest speaker. This event is hosted by Jackson County NAACP and Chipola College BSU.

» **Parade** — With a 9:30 a.m. start time and 8:45 a.m. line-up time, the parade begins on Madison

Street, travels through downtown Marianna, along Lafayette Street, and ends at Wynn Street. Entry deadline is Jan. 8 and the fee is \$10. Call Yolanda Pittman at 850-447-3591 or Leon Kelly at 850-209-4310. Hosted by Jackson County NAACP.

» **Worship service** — 11:30 a.m. at Second West Baptist Association, 4110 Herring Ave. in Marianna. Speaker: Pastor Lawrence Gantt, Henshaw Chapel AME Church. Host: Jackson County NAACP. For more information, call 850-696-0599.

#### New Year's Resolution River Run 5K set for Jan. 20

Country Bumpkins 4-H hosts the New Year's Resolution River Run 5K on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, at Three Rivers State Park in Sneads.

The event starts at 11 a.m., with registration/check-in is at 10 a.m. Fees are \$15 for youth (18 and under) and \$20 for adults (19 and up). Vehicle parking at the park is \$3. Proceeds from the event will go to educational activities and community service projects.

Each age group and team will receive awards. Pre-register with a group of four or more and get 10 percent off. The largest

group will receive and "Super Surprise Pack." Register online at [signmeup.com/123270](http://signmeup.com/123270) or call 850-272-3728 for more information.

#### UF/IFAS Plant Camp applications available Dec. 12 to Feb. 18

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences will have applications for its popular and free 2018 Plant Camp. Applications will be accepted from Dec. 12 to Feb. 18.

The UF/IFAS Center

for Aquatic and Invasive Plants and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission sponsor the five-day workshop June 11-15, 2018, in Gainesville. The workshop is designed for teachers—4th through 12th grade—interested in learning more about the 130-plus invasive plant species invading Florida, and the native flora and fauna that make the state unique.

To apply, visit [plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/application](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/application).

From staff reports

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# Artist to help kids build bikes showing their personalities

The Associated Press

RUSKIN — Art meets transportation for a good cause in an after-school program where two dozen kids will create bicycles guaranteed to turn heads.

The vision comes from Ruskin artist Michael Parker, who calls his prototype machine a "rat bike" or "ridiculous but fun bike." Built with parts from scrapped bikes and whatever else Parker fancied, it's actually a low-rider tricycle — red, green and rust with a seat shaped like a throne and a steer horn across the handlebars.

Parker aims to teach 24 children who can't afford to purchase bikes how to create their own custom versions at his Ruskin art studio, adjacent to his house near the Lower Manatee River.

Titled Bend, Grind and Ride: Earn a Bike, the program will provide aspiring young artists with donor bikes to junk for parts, up to \$275 to buy whatever else they need to complete their vision, and two months of twice-a-week, two-and-half hour classes to put it all together.

Those interested can sign up at [www.southshoreartscouncil.org](http://www.southshoreartscouncil.org).

Students must be 12 to 16, live in the South Shore area of southwest Hillsborough County, and demonstrate a willingness to "Go crazy, dream big and then ride it out of here," Parker said.

"Learn the mechanics and build something that defines who you are."

Take Parker's bike, for instance.

The throne seat is shaped like the king in a chess set, an homage to his father, an avid player of the game.

The steer horn was a

16th birthday present from a friend to place on Parker's first car — a 1968 Cadillac DeVille convertible.

"It's been a part of my life for a long time," the 40-year-old artist said.

The program is funded through a \$10,000 grant provided by the San Francisco-based Black Rock Arts Foundation, which was created by several of the partners who produce the Burning Man, the annual festival that turns a desert outside Reno, Nevada, into a temporary art community.

For Parker, president of the South Shore Arts Council, the bike program is a way to help poor children land transportation they can be proud of while promoting his love for community art.

Among Parker's better-known community art projects are the 12,600-square-foot mural along Adamo Drive that depicts the history and culture of Ybor City and a row of walls in downtown Tampa's Perry Harvey Sr. Park that include images of local civil rights leaders such as Robert Saunders.

Parker is also teaching a class called Community Arts through Hillsborough Community College's South Shore campus.

The course is held at his art studio 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays but students have access to the space whenever he is there.

Student Tanya Roldan is creating six mosaic paintings of iconic South Shore images.

Her depiction of an old Ruskin tomato festival poster took 40 hours to complete, with much of that time spent in Parker's studio, she said.

Class projects often reflect Parker's passion for



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Artist Michael Parker teaches kids who cannot afford to buy bikes and how to make their own at his studio in Ruskin.



Armando Preciado, 19, is creating a giant marionette a workable puppet from an old mannequin to operate on a bicycle like a high rider that will sway 6-feet from ground surface inside of Michael Parker's art studio.

wheels.

Daniel Gasiorek is making a mobile three-hole mini-golf course that will be pulled by Parker's low-rider tricycle. And

Armando Preciado is designing a bike he will control with a life-sized marionette.

"He sets us up so we can pursue our own projects

in a freestyle fashion," Preciado said. "He doesn't try to dampen our ambition."

These college projects combined with the after-

school bike program make Parker's studio a hub of activity in an otherwise quiet neighborhood. That's just how he wants it.

"Imagine what it could be like if we have all 24 bikes riding around here," Parker said a laugh. "That is what I am talking about. That is the type of neighborhood I'd want to live in."

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## THE TALLY TELLER

*Real But Not So Real News and Local Events*

Volume I

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Number 1

# TIN LIZZY'S NYE CELEBRATION

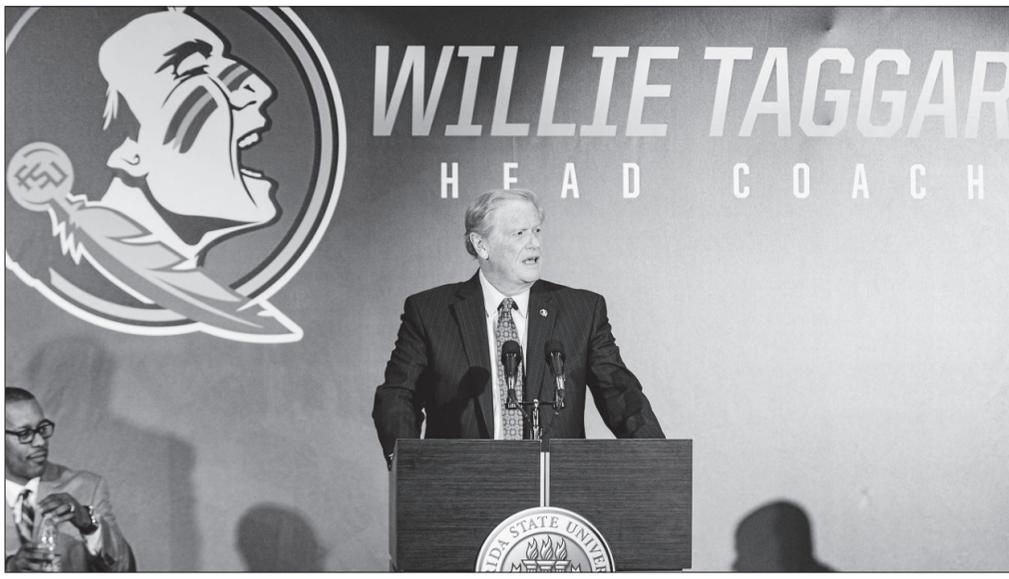


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Florida State University president John Thrasher delivers remarks before introducing Willie Taggart as FSU's new NCAA college football coach during a news conference in Tallahassee.

## FSU head: No timetable to resume Greek life after fraternity death

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The president of Florida State University says he has no timetable yet for reinstating Greek activities on campus after they were suspended in November following the death of a fraternity pledge.

John Thrasher told The Associated Press in an interview that he will study suggestions from many groups over the coming month, seeking to have more definitive ideas on how to proceed by the end of January.

"I want to be deliberate about it and understand the ramifications of what we do," Thrasher said in an interview as the university began wrapping up its fall semester. "There are no silver bullets for the cultural aspects that are out there as far as drinking. I can't change all that. I think we will come up with good ideas and move ahead."

Thrasher suspended all Greek activities on campus on Nov. 6, three days after what police described as the apparent alcohol-related death of Andrew Coffey, a 20-year-old junior who was a pledge at Pi Kappa Phi.

Penn State and Louisiana State universities also suspended Greek activities earlier this year due to stu-

dent deaths, but Florida State's move triggered a bigger impact nationally. Since Florida State's announcement, Texas State, Ohio State and Michigan have also issued suspensions of Greek activities either due to a student's death or incidents involving fraternities and sororities.

Thrasher said that during the past month he has talked to faculty, students, clergy and other university presidents. He also held closed-door meetings with student organizations.

"I think the fact we did what we did gave other campuses the courage to make a bold statement and get attention of folks which has been a positive," Thrasher added.

During the suspension, the only events Greek life members can conduct are meetings with the university or their national chapter. Students are allowed to remain as residents in their fraternity or sorority houses. Thrasher also banned alcohol at all student organization events during the suspension.

A county grand jury will meet next week to consider whether anyone will be charged in Coffey's death, which remains under investigation by FSU and Tallahassee police.

Tallahassee Police said indications showed alcohol was involved in Coffey's death but the state Medical Examiner hasn't yet released its report.

Thrasher said he will appear before the grand jury to discuss what happened from an overview standpoint and to discuss what he hopes to do moving forward. He is optimistic though that revised policies could be in place by late February.

The suspension of Greek activities wasn't the only issue Thrasher had to deal with in recent months.

A week of classes was lost to Hurricane Irma early in the semester. And then there was the resignation Dec. 1 of football coach Jimbo Fisher, who went to Texas A&M after signing a 10-year, \$75 million contract. Oregon coach Willie Taggart — a native of Palmetto, Florida who grew up as a Florida State fan — was hired less than a week later.

For Thrasher, who turns 74 on Monday, it was the most hectic semester of his four-year tenure. But he said he was satisfied that things were handled well.

"With everything that went on, we don't lose sight this university is on the rise," he said. "I'm optimistic about 2018 and having a great year. I do know in the spring we won't have any hurricanes, we won't lose any football games and I believe our head coach will be solid."

## State Supreme Court tosses petition to block appointments

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court tossed out a petition Thursday that was attempting to stop Republican Gov. Rick Scott from appointing three Supreme Court justices on the day he leaves office.

The court said it couldn't rule on an action that hadn't yet happened, but the majority expressed no opinion on whether Scott would have the right to replace three justices who are forced to retire on the same day his replacement is sworn in.

The Florida branch of the League of Women Voters and the government watchdog group Common Cause filed a petition with the Supreme Court in June saying Scott's successor should make the appointments. Their petition was filed after Scott said he intends to nominate three justices the morning he leaves office because of term limits.

"Although Governor Scott announced his intent to appoint the replacements for three justices of this Court, clearly no appointments have been made," the court said in its opinion. "Until some action is taken by the Governor, the matter the League seeks to have resolved is not ripe."

The issue is one the Republican-dominated Legislature hoped to resolve through a constitutional amendment it placed on the ballot in 2014. The

goal was to ensure that Scott would control the picks by placing in the constitution a provision that spells out the outgoing governor can appoint justices retiring at the same time they leave office. But 52 percent of voters rejected the idea — far from the 60 percent support it needed to pass.

"I am pleased that the court upheld Florida law today and dismissed the challenge brought by these political organizations. As long as I am governor, I will continue to use my authority to appoint qualified judges," Scott said in a statement emailed by his office.

The issue is likely not going away.

Age limits are forcing three justices to retire on the same day Florida's next governor is takes office in January 2019. Scott has said he plans to name their replacements that same morning.

The decision could change the balance of the court for decades. If Scott gets his way, the seven-member court will be stacked with six conservative judges as more liberal justices Barbara Pariente, Fred Lewis and Peggy Quince step down.

Florida League of Women President Pamela Goodman said she was waiting for the group's lawyers to review the court's decision before commenting on it.

"Clearly what we were trying to do is avoid what we believe would be a constitutional crisis," she said.

## SpaceX first: Recycled rocket soars with recycled capsule

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL — SpaceX racked up another first on Friday, launching a recycled rocket with a recycled capsule on a grocery run for NASA.

The unmanned Falcon rocket blasted off with a just-in-time-for-Christmas delivery for the International Space Station, taking flight again after a six-month turnaround. On board was a Dragon supply ship, also a second-time flier.

It was NASA's first use of a reused Falcon rocket and only the second of a previously flown Dragon.

Within 10 minutes of liftoff, the first-stage booster was back at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, standing upright on the giant X at SpaceX's landing zone. That's where it landed back in June following its first launch. Double sonic booms thundered across the area. Across the country at SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California, cheers erupted outside

the company's glassed-in Mission Control, where company chief Elon Musk joined his employees.

The Dragon, meanwhile, was in orbit and on track to reach the space station Sunday. The capsule last visited the 250-mile-high outpost in 2015.

This time, the Dragon is hauling nearly 5,000 pounds of goods, including 40 mice for a muscle-wasting study, a first-of-its-kind impact sensor for measuring space debris as minuscule as a grain of sand and barley seeds for a germination experiment by Budweiser, already angling to serve the first beer on Mars.

Reusability is the future for spaceflight, according to NASA's station program manager Kirk Shireman. Everyone benefits through lower launch costs, he noted.

"The reality is, the business of space is dominated by launch costs ... so getting the costs down is important for everyone," he told reporters earlier this week.

For the past two years, the private SpaceX has been salvaging as much as possible from rockets following liftoff. Rather than letting first-stage boosters sink in the Atlantic, as other orbital rocket makers do, SpaceX flies them back to Cape Canaveral for vertical touchdowns or, when extra rocket power is needed to propel a satellite extra high, to a floating ocean platform.

NASA flew its first reused Dragon back in June. But managers waited until SpaceX had three rocket reflights under its belt, before putting NASA's station equipment and experiments on a second-hand Falcon.

The space agency assigned its best engineers to take part in the extensive booster inspections and reviews before launch, according to Shireman. The risk of flying a reused rocket, versus a brand new one, was judged to be pretty much equal, he said.

Friday's booster recovery was the 20th for the

company.

Jessica Jensen, a SpaceX manager, said the company aims to reuse rockets — and capsules — far more than twice. The only way to get thousands of people into space — the ultimate goal of SpaceX mastermind Elon Musk — is by drastically cutting launch costs, she said.

This was the first launch from the SpaceX-rented Complex 40 in more than

a year. The last time a Falcon rocket stood at the pad ready to fly, in September 2016, it blew up during a fueling drill. SpaceX spent \$50 million rebuilding the pad.

Friday's successful liftoff means that SpaceX has now launched from all three of its pads — two in Florida and one in California — in the same year.

The space station is down to three astronauts

until Sunday's launch of three more. The Dragon should arrive at the orbiting outpost a few hours after the fresh crew launches from Kazakhstan. Once back up to full capacity, the station will be home to three Americans, two Russians and one Japanese.

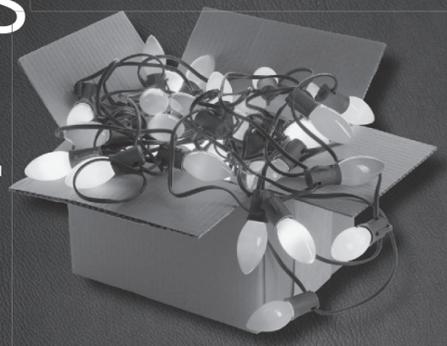
SpaceX — one of two private shippers contracted by NASA — has been making station supply runs since 2012.



The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Dragon spacecraft launches from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral.

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## JACKSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The following persons were booked into the county jail during the latest reporting periods:

- » **Jena Demaree**, 30, 1342 Dipper Road, Marianna, failure to appear.
- » **Kimberly Knox**, 37, 4786 Wynn St., Marianna, failure to appear.
- » **Michael McNamara**, 21, possession of weapon (short barreled gun — rifle or

machine), carrying a concealed weapon-firearm.

- » **Kayla Stiles**, 28, 528 Park Drive, Bonifay, fugitive from justice.
- » **Javeed Qamar**, 35, 4261 Kelson Ave., Marianna, driving under the influence.
- » **Steven Lewis**, 36, 3400 Ocee St., Houston, Texas, fleeing or attempting to elude (high speed reckless), resisting officer with violence, driving under the influence, leaving the scene of a crash involving damage, driving while license suspended or

## Police Roundup

revoked, reckless driving.

- » **Christopher Williams**, 27, 609 Watson St., Chattahoochee, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of synthetic marijuana with intent to sell, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, driving while license suspended, habitual traffic offender, fleeing and attempting to elude.
- » **Carrie Mayo**, 23, 737 White Drive, Alford, hold for Liberty County.

- » **Teresa Highsmith**, 36, 3544 Willis Road, Greenwood, grand theft, false statement to obtain property credit, fraudulent use of personal identification, forgery.
- » **Reginald Smith**, 36, 2405 Carpenter Cemetery Road, Grand Ridge, driving while license suspended or revoked.
- » **Heather Foulks**, 21, 2008 Highway 71, Marianna, failure to stop or remain at accident involving injury, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, driving while

license suspended or revoked, obstruction without violence.

- » **Dustin Brown**, 36, 723 Sewell Farm Road, Chipley, hold for Washington County.
- » **Joseph Morton**, 62, 3429 Wiloliver Road, Marianna, possession of drug paraphernalia.

**JAIL POPULATION: 275**

To report a crime, call CrimeStoppers at 526-5000 or a local law enforcement agency. To report a wildlife violation, call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

# Bay County warns of traveling scammers

From staff reports

The Bay County Sheriff's Office released pictures Thursday of a suspect believed involved in a quick-change scam.

BCSO Criminal Investigators also believe the suspect may be part of an organized traveling group, working their way through this area.

On Dec. 8, a woman entered a local grocery store and purchased a small item. During the transaction, the woman asked the cashier to exchange a large bill for smaller denominations. The woman made several requests, which confused the cashier. After the woman left the store, it was discovered that she had obtained more than \$350 by false pretenses.

According to surveillance footage recorded during the inci-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Authorities in Bay County released these images of a suspect in a quick-change scam.**

dent, the suspect is described as a black female with medium-length black hair. She appears to be in her 40s, of medium height and build, and wearing blue jeans and a dark-colored hoodie

at the time of the incident. Anyone with information on this suspect is asked to contact the BCSO Financial Crimes Unit at 850-248-2075 or Crime Stoppers at 850-785-TIPS.

# Police: Chipley man faces multiple charges

From staff reports

A Chipley man is behind bars following a Dec. 14 chase, in which police used a special traffic maneuver to wrap up the incident and bring him into custody. The chase ended at the intersection of Satellite Road and Tri-County Airport Road in Jackson County.

An officer with the Bonifay Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle with an expired license plate. The driver of the vehicle refused to stop and proceeded to run two stop signs before turning east onto Bonifay-Chipley Road, according to officials with the BPD.

The pursuit continued onto Cope Road and into Jackson County. A pit maneuver was executed at the intersection of Satellite Road and Tri-County Airport Road. The driver of the 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe was identified as Dustin Royce Brown, 36, of Chipley.

Brown was arrested on an outstanding warrant in Washington County for allegedly driving while his license was suspended. Authorities said this week that he is facing additional charges at first appearance of willful

and wanton reckless driving, fleeing and attempting to



Brown

elude a marked patrol car, grand theft of a motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of a controlled substance (Xanax) and DWLSR. Brown was transported to the Jackson County Jail to await first appearance.

BPD Chief Chris Wells expressed appreciation for the assistance of Holmes, Washington and Jackson County sheriff's offices and the Chipley Police Department. "I greatly appreciate the manpower and assistance provided by all agencies. We have to work together to get the job done and this case is a good example of cooperation among our neighboring agencies. Sheriff Tate (Holmes County), Sheriff Crews (Washington County) and Sheriff Roberts (Jackson County) were all on-scene along with myself and assisted with the case. I cannot express my appreciation enough for the assistance rendered by their agencies."

# Chattahoochee man facing drug, other charges

From staff reports

A deputy's suspicions regarding a motorist's actions on the road led to the arrest of that driver after he reportedly abandoned the car and ran into the woods as the officer trailed him, according to a press release from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

When a K-9 team tracked the suspect down, authorities say, he had a garbage bag containing synthetic marijuana and cash, and had reportedly left other evidence nearby.

Christopher Lavel Williams, 27, of Chattahoochee, is charged in the case with possession of marijuana, synthetic marijuana, methamphetamine and cocaine, and with intent to distribute the substances. He is additionally charged with fleeing/attempting to elude a law enforcement officer, being a habitual traffic offender, and knowingly driving while his license was suspended or revoked.

A systems check also revealed that Williams was on state probation in Gadsden County for possession of cocaine, according to the release.

Authorities seized approximately three pounds of marijuana, roughly two pounds of synthetic marijuana, five grams of methamphetamine, and two

grams of crack cocaine.

The incident began Wednesday, when a deputy was patrolling the area of Keevers Road and U.S. 90 in Sneads. The officer reportedly saw a silver Dodge Magnum slow abruptly as it traveled east on U.S. 90 and then turn right onto Keevers Road. The deputy followed, noting that the car then made an abrupt turn into the driveway of a residence. The release states that the officer reported that, as he passed by the Magnum, he saw the driver looking at his side mirror "as if to see if he (the officer) was going to pull in or pass by."

Knowing the owner of the property where the car had pulled in, the deputy contacted that individual and the householder told him he didn't know anyone who drove such a vehicle, officials report.

At that point, the deputy went back toward the residence and saw that the Dodge had pulled out of the driveway and was headed west toward U.S. 90. It then turned east on 90 and accelerated toward Sneads, the officer reported. The deputy said he caught up to the vehicle and saw it turn abruptly onto O'Hara Avenue "as if to evade the officer," according to the release.

When the deputy then initiated a traffic stop at the Seminole Car Wash and got out to make con-

tact, the release states, the driver accelerated forward and traveled behind the car wash. The officer pulled to the back lot and saw that the car was stopped, with the passenger door open and a woman, later identified as a passenger, standing outside it.

The officer reports that he saw the driver running west on the other side of the car wash fence, traveling down a wooded power line path. The deputy called for assistance at that point, and a K-9 team from Apalachee Correctional Institution was dispatched to the scene. The Sneads Police Department also responded.

The dogs tracked Williams to the wooded area south of U.S. 90, officials say, and he was taken into custody there. Authorities seized a garbage bag that contained synthetic marijuana and cash, and, from the scene nearby, they also collected methamphetamine and marijuana, according to the release. Officials also report finding a small amount of crack cocaine inside the car, along with a small amount of marijuana and a digital scale.

In the release, Jackson County Sheriff Lou Roberts extended thanks to the Sneads Police Department and the ACI K-9 team for their assistance in the case.

## Crime Briefs

### Woman charged with fleeing, drug possession and driving violation

Sonja Elnora Smith, 36, was charged this week with fleeing and eluding law enforcement, possession of crack cocaine and driving while license suspended following a pursuit by the Marianna Police Department. Officials said in a news release that officers attempted to stop the silver GMC Yukon she was driving, because of an equipment violation. Instead of pulling over, officials said, Smith accelerated. After a short pursuit, she did stop and was arrested. A search of the vehicle revealed a small quantity of crack cocaine, officials say. She was taken to the Jackson County Correction Facility to await first appearance.

### Man arrested on firearms charge

Willie Devonte White, 25, was arrested this week by the Marianna Police Department on a charge of carrying a concealed firearm. Authorities say officers encountered White as they were conducting patrols in areas where some recent car burglaries had occurred. When

speaking with him on Deering Street around 4 a.m. on Dec. 15, officials say, the officers discovered that he was in possession of a loaded firearm which he was carrying concealed on his person. White, who does not have a concealed weapon permit, was arrested on a charge of carrying a concealed firearm without a permit. He was taken to the Jackson County Correction Facility to await first appearance.

### German sentenced for flying to US for child sex

ORLANDO — A German man has been sentenced to life in U.S. federal prison for flying to Florida to have sex with a 13-year-old child.

Meinrad Kopp was arrested in Orlando in June after arranging sex with a Brevard County Sheriff's Office undercover agent he thought was the girl's father.

In a Florida Today report, the sheriff's office said Kopp, 55, pleaded guilty to attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity with the enhancement of overseas travel. Kopp was sentenced and ordered to pay a \$250,000 fine.

From staff and wire reports

## State Crime Briefs

### Teen accused of pointing laser at sheriff's helicopter

BRADENTON — Authorities say they've arrested a Florida teenager for pointing a laser at a sheriff's office helicopter.

News outlets report that Manatee County deputies arrested the 15-year-old boy after tracking the source of the laser to his Bradenton home Tuesday night.

Sheriff's spokesman Dave Bristow says the helicopter was helping deputies on the ground find a suspect in another investigation when light began shining into the cockpit and into the eyes

of crewmembers. Officials say patrol units responded to the boy's home and found him in possession of a laser pointer.

The teen was taken to a juvenile booking facility. It wasn't immediately clear what the boy was charged with, but federal law prohibits shining a laser at an aircraft.

### Man gets life for killing couple over painkillers

MILTON — A man has been sentenced to life in prison for fatally shooting a Florida couple over prescription painkillers.

The Pensacola News Journal reports that the

Santa Rosa County jurors who convicted 45-year-old Derrick Ray Thompson last week of first-degree murder didn't unanimously recommend the death penalty on Thursday. That meant an automatic life sentence.

Authorities say Thompson was working as an electrician in the Milton home of Steven and Debra Zackowski in July 2014. He was being paid with oxydone pills and believed Steven Zackowski was shorting him.

A defense attorney argued Thompson's addiction to painkillers was so deep that he didn't comprehend the criminality of his actions.

### Man found dead after standoff with deputies

TALLAHASSEE — Authorities say a man was found dead from an apparent suicide following a four-hour standoff with Florida deputies.

The Tallahassee Democrat reports that the Leon County Sheriff's Office SWAT team surrounded the home Wednesday afternoon.

Officials say deputies had responded to the home that morning to serve an arrest warrant for a probation violation. Following attempts to contact and negotiate with the man, SWAT members used

a series of flash bangs and entered the home.

Authorities say the man was dead from what appeared to be a self-inflicted wound. Deputies didn't immediately release the man's name.

### Man who fled to the Bahamas to serve sentence

WEST PALM BEACH — A man sentenced in 2001 for killing a woman in a DUI crash has been extradited from the Bahamas to Florida to serve that sentence.

The Sun Sentinel reports 44-year-old Trent Albury was booked into the Palm Beach County jail Tuesday

after exhausting attempts to fight extradition.

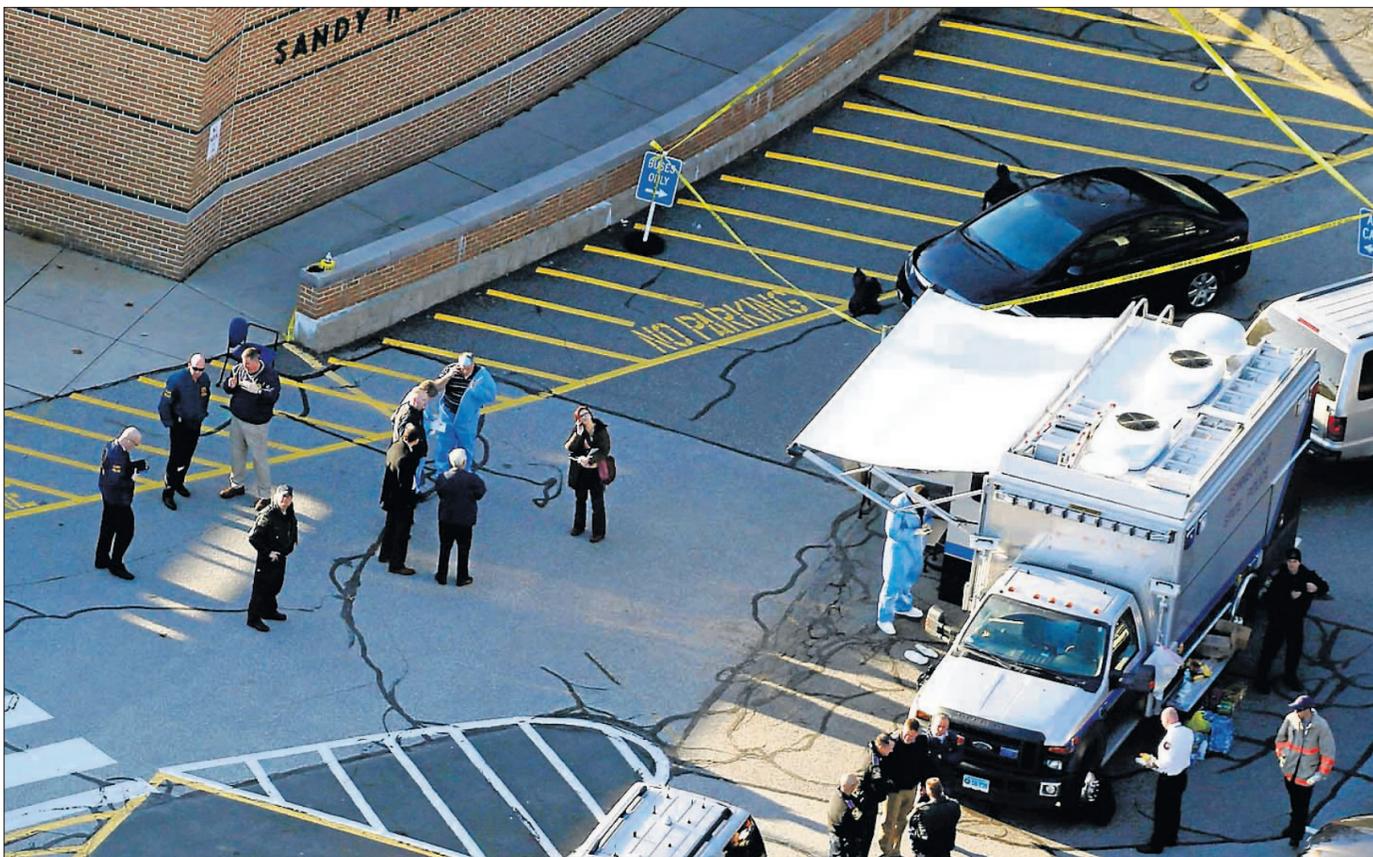
Albury received a 13-year sentence for a DUI manslaughter conviction after running a red light while high on GHB, striking and killing 44-year-old Dawn Sheppard in May 2000. He lost an appeal and was to report to prison in March 2003, but instead cut off his ankle monitor and fled to the Bahamas.

U.S. Marshals Service Assistant Chief Manny Puri says authorities knew Albury's whereabouts while he was out on bond there.

It's unclear if he will serve extra time for fleeing.

From wire reports

# Still feeling the effects



Officials stand outside of then-Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## Mental health care worries linger 5 years after Sandy Hook

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Anguished mothers with mentally ill children have sought out Liza Long for help ever since she wrote an essay, “I am Adam Lanza’s Mother,” comparing experiences with her son to the emotionally troubled 20-year-old who carried out the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

The massacre sounded alarms nationally about gaps in mental health care and led to calls for better screening and services, especially for young people showing a propensity for violence, but some key reforms enacted in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting depend on funding that has yet to be delivered by Congress. And Long still hears almost daily from families overwhelmed by their children’s behaviors and struggling to get treatment.

“We’re still not seeing the health access, the access to mental health care,” said Long, an Idaho mother of four and community college instructor who credited her essay with attracting the attention of a physician who correctly diagnosed and treated her then-13-year-old son for bipolar disorder.

Like other mass shootings before and since, the tragedy prompted calls for tighter con-

trols on guns and improved mental health treatment, but five years later, mental health care providers are waiting for promised boosts in funding, and many families are still battling insurance companies to cover their children’s services. While advocates say the quality of mental health care varies widely by state, they also see reason for optimism in a push for more early intervention programs and changing public attitudes about mental illness.

“There’s a lot of reason to feel optimistic,” said Ron Honberg, senior policy adviser at the National Alliance on Mental Illness. “But there are a lot of challenges too, particularly around financing these services.”

The 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law by then-President Barack Obama in December 2016, was inspired in part by the tragedy and included what proponents touted as the first major mental health reform package in nearly a decade. The measures that were included in the law but still await funding include grants for intensive early intervention for infants and young children showing signs of mental illness.

“There were a lot of things people took credit for passing,” said U.S. Rep. Elizabeth

Esty, a Democrat whose district includes Newtown. “If they’re not funded, it’s a nice piece of paper and something hanging on somebody’s wall, but it’s not going to help save lives.”

Mental health experts point out the vast majority of people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders do not commit violent crimes, and no motive has ever been determined for the Dec. 14, 2012, massacre in which Lanza fatally shot his mother at home and then gunned down 20 children and six educators at the school in Newtown.

A report by the Connecticut Child Advocate noted Lanza’s mother rejected recommendations that her son be medicated and get treatment for anxiety and other conditions, but it concluded his actions were not directly caused by his psychiatric problems.

Rather, it said, his “severe and deteriorating internalized mental health problems,” when combined with a preoccupation with violence and access to deadly weapons, “proved a recipe for mass murder.”

In her column, Long wrote that she was terrified of her son, who was prone to violent rages and had been placed in juvenile detention facilities four times. Only

a few weeks earlier, her son had pulled out a knife and threatened to kill her. Since receiving treatment, her son, who is now 18, has not had another violent episode.

“People don’t understand the world that parents live in when they have a child with mental illness,” Long said. When other mothers reach out to her, she tries to match them up with resources in their states.

Many patients find the right treatment only after going through a lot of detours, said Dr. Vinod Srihari, director of the clinic for Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven.

“The nature of these illnesses is that they’re often misunderstood,” said Srihari, also an associate professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. “And so, families with a young person with psychosis can often not rely on others around them to assist because what they’re struggling with is misunderstood and could be a source of shame and embarrassment. And that means that they can’t leverage their community supports to get the care they need.”

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, said he expects it will be difficult to secure

funding for the new programs in the Republican-controlled Congress. But, he said, there are other recent reforms that are also making a difference.

The creation of an assistant secretary position at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services dedicated to improving behavioral health care has put pressure on insurance companies to cover the cost of mental health conditions equally as physical health, he said.

The 21st Century Cures Act also created a committee to advise Congress and federal agencies on the needs of adults and young people with serious mental illness. It is scheduled to meet Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre, to discuss the group’s first report to Congress.

Committee member John Snook, executive director of the Virginia-based Treatment Advocacy Center, said there is cautious optimism about improvements to come from the focus the Sandy Hook shooting put on mental health.

“We are definitely cognizant that the window is closing and attention is shifting,” Snook said. “You don’t want another tragedy to be the reason people are reminded they need to focus on these issues.”

## California lawmakers propose health coverage for immigrants

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California, flush with cash from an expanding economy, would eventually spend \$1 billion a year to provide health care to immigrants living in the state illegally under a proposal announced Wednesday by Democratic lawmakers.

The proposal would eliminate legal residency requirements in California’s Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal, as the state has already done for young people up to age 19.

It’s part of \$4.3 billion in new spending proposed by Assemblyman Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat who leads the budget committee. Assembly Democrats also want to expand a tax credit for the working poor, boost preschool and child care, and increase college scholarships to reduce reliance on student loans.

They also would commit \$3.2 billion more than required to state budget reserves.

The proposal marks the Assembly’s opening volley in six months of budget negotiations with the Senate and Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown, who has been reluctant to commit to new ongoing spending on social services.



Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, presents the Assembly’s budget proposal in his office in Sacramento, Calif., on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California has significantly reduced its rate of uninsured people since former President Barack Obama’s health care law took effect, but about 7 percent of residents still lack coverage. Many are people living in the country illegally, who are ineligible for U.S.-funded health care assistance.

While federal funds cover at least half — and as much 95 percent — of the cost for citizens and legal U.S. residents on Medi-Cal, the state would have to pick up the cost on its own for people living here illegally.

Expanding access to health care has been a contentious issue for California lawmakers,

who targeted last year by protests from liberal activists who want the Legislature to provide state-funded coverage to everyone, regardless of immigration status.

A measure promoting that principle was sidelined when Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon said it lacked specifics,

including a plan for the \$400 billion it would cost.

The Assembly’s latest proposal is narrower, only extending the state Medicaid program to all low-income adults.

Brown, who is often more conservative in his own revenue forecast, will release his budget proposal next month.

H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the Department of Finance, said Brown wants to boost state reserves and avoid committing to unsustainable spending.

“We want to be able to provide as much budgetary protection as we can to protect or insulate the state from the potential effects of a downturn in the state’s fiscal fortunes,” Palmer said.

Ting, the head of the Assembly budget committee, said lawmakers were exploring ways to restructure the state tax code if Congress approves a proposed U.S. tax overhaul. California leaders have warned that the measure could harm taxpayers by restricting a federal deduction for state and local taxes, which is especially lucrative in high-tax states like California.

“I’m very concerned that this tax cut is a tax increase for middle-class and working-class Californians,” Ting said. “So we are looking at ways that we can help mitigate that.”

## High School Boys Basketball

# Bryant promoted to Tigers' varsity coach

From staff reports

Graceville High School has named the junior varsity boys' basketball coach, Glenn Bryant, as the new varsity boys' basketball coach.

This was Bryant's first year coaching at Graceville. He coached the middle school boys' team and will continue to coach the boys' JV squad, as well as the varsity squad. Before coming to Graceville, he coached the North Bay Haven middle school team.

Bryant is currently a minister and a student at the Baptist Col-

lege of Florida.

Former head basketball and football coach Justin Miles will continue to serve as Graceville's athletic director and teach physical education.

"I just wasn't pleased with the direction the varsity basketball team was going," said GHS Principal Julie Burdeshaw.

"I think he has already bonded with the kids," she said. "He is going to be an excellent asset for our school."

The change will also start a search for a new Graceville football coach.



MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

New Graceville High School varsity basketball Coach Glenn Bryant talks to the Tigers during their game against Blountstown on Thursday night.

### Box Scores

#### December 15

##### High School Basketball

Cottondale boys beat Sneads, 72-49.  
Marianna boys beat Malone, 68-48.  
Cottondale girls beat Sneads, 54-45.  
Graceville girls beat Blountstown, 46-15.

##### High School Soccer

The score for Marianna boys varsity vs. Port St. Joe unavailable at press time.  
Marianna girls lost to Port St. Joe, 2-1.

#### December 14

##### High School Basketball

Graceville boys lost to Blountstown, 56-52.  
Sneads boys beat Wewa, 106-102.  
Sneads girls beat Wewa, 59-30.

##### High School Soccer

Marianna boys tied Wakulla, 0-0.

#### December 13

##### Chipola Basketball

Chipola women beat Arkansas Baptist College, 96-48.

## HORNETS, BULLDOGS VICTORIOUS



PHOTOS BY MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN



MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

Quan Daniels shoots for Sneads during a game earlier in the week.

## Pirates poach Gators with overtime win

From staff reports

The Sneads Pirates beat Wewa in a tense 106-102 overtime game Thursday night.

Despite a steady rain of baskets coming from the Pirates, Wewa was able to pull ahead, 20-16, in the first quarter.

Sneads put a stop to this in the second, with Quan Daniels putting up 14, Jalen Johnson and Veryl White getting four apiece, Chase Harrell getting three, River Clark getting two and Xzavier White getting a free throw.

Wewa kept hitting their shots, but it was 44-40 Sneads at the half.

Wewa hit the court hard in the third and was able to reclaim the lead 65-60.

The fourth brought a flurry of baskets as Daniels sank 12 and Daeshun Hilliard got nine.

When the buzzer sounded it was a 92-92 tie. In overtime, Sneads was able to grab the lead, with Daniels adding five, Xzavier White and Johnson getting four and Hilliard getting a free throw.

Even with Sneads' sharp shooting, Wewa was able to get 10, but it wasn't enough and the Pirates won.



## TIGERS LOSE CLOSE ONE

Graceville's Andre Brown shoots for two against Blountstown Thursday night. Graceville took an 11-5 lead over Blountstown in the first quarter and stayed there in the second, 24-18, but Blountstown took the lead in the third, 39-33. While Graceville put up a hard fight in the fourth, Blountstown won, 56-52.



MARK SKINNER/FLORIDAN

## Middle School Basketball

# Bullpups' year ends one victory short of title

From staff reports

The Marianna Middle School Bullpups boys' basketball A team had their season end on a sad note Thursday night, with a 45-31 loss to Taylor County in their conference championship game.

The Bullpups were 11-4 for the season. "I thought we had a great season," said head coach Tyler Wilson. "Our guys always came out and played hard every game."

He added that while they weren't able to win the conference championship, they were able to make it to the championship game and that he was very proud of how far they came as a team.

Fishing

# FWC's 'TrophyCatch' program celebrates 5 successful seasons

Special to the Floridan

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's "TrophyCatch" program celebrated five years of bass conservation at its annual Hall of Fame ceremony at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Orlando.

In the past five seasons, "TrophyCatch" has awarded prizes for the catch and release of more than 6,868 largemouth bass.

"We want to thank all of our partners and anglers for their commitment to conservation," said Tom Champeau, FWC's Director of the Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management. "We now have 47 Hall of Fame anglers in the TrophyCatch program, and this event honors their skill in catching a bass of a lifetime and submitting



PHOTO COURTESY OF FWC

Top row (from left) are Sy Simms, Dominic Montalto, Geoffrey Wells and Thomas Korinis; bottom row: Mark Harris, Jean Wilson, Mark Lemieux and Bradley Powell.

their data to the FWC to assist in the management of our trophy bass fisheries."

Sixteen Hall of Fame anglers were recognized for their catch and release of a largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds or heavier in

Florida. The Hall of Fame anglers each received Bass Pro Shops gift cards, Spiderwire merchandise, a custom fiberglass replica mount made by New Wave Taxidermy and a plaque from American Registry commemorating their

catch. The Season 5 Champion, Dominic Montalto, received the "TrophyCatch" trophy for catching and releasing the heaviest bass of the season at 16 pounds, 12 ounces.

The "TrophyCatch Big

Bag Prize" was awarded to Arthur Jackson for his catch and release of the most bass with the heaviest combined weight in Season 5. He caught and released 16 fish with a total combined weight of 141.625 pounds. Jackson received a Shimano prize pack, along with a Lake County Tourism prize pack of a three-day, two-night stay in Lake County with a guided fishing trip with professional angler Tim Frederick.

"TrophyCatch" is a partnership between FWC biologists, anglers and fishing industry leaders such as Bass Pro Shops, that rewards the catch, documentation and release of largemouth bass weighing 8 pounds or heavier in Florida.

In order to be eligible for prizes, anglers are required to submit photos or videos

of their catch to TrophyCatch.com, showing the fish's weight on a scale, before releasing it back into the water. FWC biologists use "TrophyCatch" data for bass research, to make informed decisions about the management of Florida bass fisheries and to promote the catch and release of trophy bass. "TrophyCatch" is supported by many generous partners, such as Bass Pro Shops.

The FWC encourages anglers to join "TrophyCatch" as citizen-scientists that assist in fisheries management and the conservation of Florida's lakes and rivers. A new "TrophyCatch" mobile app is available for download on both Apple and Android devices. For more information about the program, email Amber Nabors at Amber.Nabors@MyFWC.com.

## Chipola Basketball

# Lady Indians pour it on in victory

From staff reports

The Chipola College Lady Indians ran over Arkansas Baptist College on their way to a 96-48 win on

Wednesday. Chipola jumped out to a big 30-10 lead in the first quarter and didn't let up in the second, when they pushed the score to 59-28.

The Indians were on a roll that Arkansas couldn't stop and, in the third, they put up 19 points to Arkansas 8 before sealing the visitors' doom in the fourth

with another 18. Courtajia Sanders and Valerie Nesbitt both had 18 for Chipola, with Namiko Adams getting 13.

## Sports Briefs

(Game times subject to change.)

### December 16

**High School Basketball**  
Graceville boys at Port St. Joe, 8 p.m.  
Marianna girls at Paxton.  
Graceville girls at Paxton.

### December 18

**High School Basketball**  
Cottondale girls at Chipley, 5:30 p.m.  
Graceville boys host Mosley, at 5:30 and 7 p.m.  
Graceville girls at Poplar Springs, 6 p.m.  
Malone boys host Laurel Hill, 6:30 p.m.  
Malone girls host Laurel Hill, 5 p.m.  
Marianna girls at Dothan, 5 and 6:30 p.m.  
Sneads girls at North Florida Christian, 5 p.m.  
Sneads boys at North Florida Christian, 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

### December 19

**High School Basketball**  
Cottondale boys host Holmes County, 5:30 and 7 p.m.  
Graceville girls host Bonifay, 6 p.m.  
Malone girls at Ponce de Leon,

5 p.m.  
Marianna girls vs. Hayneville at North Bay Haven, 12 p.m.  
Malone boys at Ponce de Leon, 4 and 6:30 p.m.  
Sneads boys at Blountstown, 5:30 and 7 p.m.  
Sneads girls at Blountstown, 4 p.m.

### December 21

**High School Basketball**  
Marianna girls at North Bay Haven, 5 p.m.  
**Cottondale Christmas Classic**  
Malone vs. Houston County, 5 p.m.  
Chipley vs. Rutherford, 6:30 p.m.  
Cottondale vs. Abbeville, 8 p.m.

### December 22

**High School Basketball**  
Marianna boys at the Capitol City Classic in Tallahassee.  
**Cottondale Christmas Classic**  
Malone vs. Mosley, 3:30 p.m.  
Rutherford vs. Abbeville, 5 p.m.  
Chipley vs. Bay, 6:30 p.m.  
Cottondale vs. Houston County, 8 p.m.

### December 23

**High School Basketball**  
Marianna boys at the Capitol

City Classic in Tallahassee.

### December 26

**Old Timers' Show Down**  
Marianna High School will host an Old Timers' basketball tournament at noon. There's a \$300 cash prize and trophy for the winning squad. Teams should register to receive a program packet. Instant photos, food and activities will be available during the event. Registration fee is \$200 per team, and proceeds benefit the boys' basketball program. To sign up, call 567-7849, 272-4208, 272-1606 or 526-6984. There's maximum number of 10 members per team.

### December 28

**Ocheessee Shootout at Grand Ridge**  
Gadsden vs. Paxton, 3 p.m.  
Sneads vs. Malone, 4:30 p.m.  
Seminole High vs. Godby, 6 p.m.  
Cottondale vs. Lighthouse, 7:30 p.m.

### December 29

**Ocheessee Shootout at Grand Ridge**  
Godby vs. Gadsden, 4:30 p.m.  
Sneads vs. Lighthouse, 6 p.m.  
Malone vs. Seminole High, 7:30 p.m.

## NFL

# Panthers owner under investigation for workplace misconduct

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers founder and owner Jerry Richardson is under investigation for allegations of workplace misconduct.

The team said Friday former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles is overseeing the investigation by a Los Angeles-based law firm.

Team spokesman Steven Drummond said in a release that the Panthers and the 81-year-old Richardson take these allegations very seriously and are fully committed to a full investigation and taking appropriate steps to address and remediate any misconduct.

"The entire organization is fully committed to ensuring a safe, comfortable and diverse work environment where all individuals, regardless of sex, race, color, religion, gender, or sexual identity or orientation, are treated fairly and equally," Drummond said in the release. "We have work to do to achieve this goal, but we are going to meet it."

Richardson was unavailable for comment.

Drummond told The Associated Press because the matter is under legal review, the Panthers cannot comment publicly on the specifics of the

allegations.

The Panthers made the NFL aware on Friday that it has initiated an investigation into Richardson's alleged workplace misconduct.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league has no comment at this time.

The investigation against the team's only owner in franchise history is being led by international law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, LLP, and will be overseen by Bowles, who is a minority owner.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said in a release Friday night that he has had a strong relationship with Richardson since he joined the franchise as coach in 2012.

"I have enormous respect for the man, but will wait for the results of the investigation before making any judgment," Rivera said.

Richardson brought NFL football to the Carolinas in 1993 when he became the first former NFL player since George Halas to own a team.

The Panthers began play two years later in 1995.

The Panthers have made a series of peculiar moves in the last year.

Team president Danny Morrison, who was well liked in the Carolinas among had worked on the business

side, abruptly resigned in February.

Then, as the Panthers were preparing for training camp, Richardson unexpectedly fired general manager Dave Gettleman, who has led the team to the Super Bowl just two years ago and replaced him with former general manager Marty Hurney. The move was odd considering Carolina has made the playoffs three times in four seasons under Gettleman.

Hurney did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

Former Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme said he is one of "numerous" former Carolina players who maintains a close relationship with Richardson.

"The only thing I can say is that Mr. Richardson is a gentleman that I have the highest degree of respect for," Delhomme told The Associated Press.

Richardson, who rarely conducts interviews, never addressed the moves.

Richardson was hospitalized 2008, one month after receiving a pacemaker. Richardson underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 2002 and was placed on a donor waiting list for a new heart. He received the new heart on Feb. 1, 2009, and has not had any known setbacks since.

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## High School Basketball

# Cottondale stops Yellowjackets

From staff reports

The Lady Hornets flew circles around Vernon on Tuesday night, as they handed the Yellowjackets a stinging 68-14 loss.

Cottondale started the trouncing in the first quarter, when they outshot Vernon, 18-9. In the second, the Lady Hornets kept their momentum going and pushed their lead to 30-13.

Halftime did nothing to slow the Lady Hornets down and in the third, they sank 21 and denied Vernon any points. In the fourth quarter Cottondale added 17 points to the board to the Yellowjackets' one to wrap up the game, 68-14.

Cottondale is 4-6 for the season and 2-2 in district.

Freshman Naquanna Wynn was the Lady Hornets high-scorer with 23. Junior Quiniyah Granberry had 20. Shatarra Wynn and Kayla Morris each had 9.

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## College Basketball

## No. 22 Florida would like to see 'big jump' on defense

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — Florida coach Mike White would like to see a "big jump" in his team's defensive performance.

It might not happen until February.

The No. 22 Gators (6-3) rank 27th in Ken Pomeroy's college basketball defensive efficiency ratings, their lowest spot since 2012. It's the main concern for White heading into Saturday's game against Clemson (8-1) in Sunrise, about a five-hour drive south of campus.

"Do I feel a crunch or a little bit of pressure in terms where we are and where we have to get better? Yeah. I'm not going to lie," White said. "I'm disappointed with the way we've defended. It starts with me. I'm pleased that we've made some baby steps here recently, but we have to make a big jump. We do."

The Gators, who ended a three-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati last weekend in New Jersey, have really struggled in two key defensive areas: In the paint and in transition.

Florida has been outscored by a whopping 60 points in the post over the last five games. Playing without center John Egbunu has been a major part of the problem, and White said this week that the 6-foot-11 senior won't return from a torn ligament in his left knee until late January.



Florida head coach Mike White yells to his team during the game against Loyola of Chicago, in Gainesville on Dec. 6.

Adding to Florida's inside issues: Backup center Gork Gak has been slowed by knee soreness, forward Chase Johnson has missed the last five games because of an undisclosed illness and forward Isaiah Stokes hasn't played this season while recovering from

knee surgery. "We're decimated in the front line right now," White said, adding that the injuries have forced him to use walk-ons and student managers in practice.

All those injuries might explain the post problems, but White has no answers

for why Florida's transition defense has been so shaky. The Gators need to sprint back on defense, quickly get in defensive stances, communicate better and become mentally tougher, White said.

"The urgency level there has to be a panic in tran-

sition defense for at least your first three or four steps," White said. "And then we've got to communicate at a higher level. We have a really quiet team. We have guys that are very introverted. But we can't be introverted in transition defense or we have no

chance."

Florida showed signs of progress against the Bearcats, holding them to two points on the break and 36 in the paint.

"We need to find ways to win games when we're not hitting those 3s, when we're not scoring 90 points a game," senior guard Egor Koulechov said. "That was the first time this year that we really just found a way. That was big for us."

"There was a sense of urgency to get a lot better in a lot of areas, especially defense and in transition. That's an emphasis for us."

White spent two practices this week honing defensive techniques and fundamentals. He'd like to have a bunch more, but Florida has three games in six days before a short holiday break and then the start of Southeastern Conference play.

"We probably needed to have four or five practices where the entire practices were on transition defense for three hours," White said. "I didn't know we would be this porous. We've made some adjustments as a staff; our guys need to make some adjustments. They know. They're bought into the fact that these are the things we've got to get better at. Are we willing to pay that price and really get out of our comfort zone, communicate at a higher level?"

"Our urgency defensively is just not near where it's got to be. It's all on me."

## No. 20 Tennessee welcomes its return to national spotlight

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee typically isn't a very hospitable host to defending national champions.

A rare sellout crowd will try to make sure that pattern continues Sunday when No. 7 North Carolina faces the 20th-ranked Volunteers in Knoxville for the first time since 1949.

Tennessee has won each of the last five times it has hosted a defending national champion, a stretch that includes victories over Kentucky (in February 1999 and February 2013), Florida (February 2007 and February 2008) and Connecticut (January 2012).

Now that they're back in the Top 25 for the first time in seven years, the Vols have a chance to make a statement that they've returned to national relevance. After making the NCAA Tournament six straight times under Bruce Pearl from 2006-11, Tennessee has been back just once in the six years since.

"We want to be a program that's big on everybody's schedule," Ten-



Tennessee's Grant Williams (2) drives around a Vanderbilt player during a game in Knoxville, Tenn., on Feb. 22.

nessee coach Rick Barnes said. "We don't want to be a program where Tennessee's coming and (it's) no big deal. We want people to know, hey, we have a good basketball program. We're not there yet. We're working to get there, but we're not there yet."

Tennessee is making positive steps in Barnes' third season.

The Vols were picked before the season to finish 13th out of 14 teams in the Southeastern Conference, but they've gotten off to a fast start that includes a road win at Georgia Tech and neutral-site victories over No. 17 Purdue and North Carolina State. Their only loss of the season came when they squandered a 12-point halftime

lead over No. 1 Villanova in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Sunday's game will attract the first capacity crowd at the 21,678-seat Thompson-Boling Arena since a February 2015 loss to Kentucky. It's the first time two ranked men's teams have faced each other in this building since No. 19 Tennessee defeated No. 2 Kentucky on Feb. 27,

2010.

The Vols get a chance to avenge one of their toughest losses from last season.

Tennessee visited Chapel Hill last year and led North Carolina by as many as 15 points before the Tar Heels rallied for a 73-71 victory. North Carolina played that game without point guard Joel Berry II due to a sprained left ankle.

"It stung, but that was last year," Tennessee forward Grant Williams said. "There are different guys on the team. They didn't experience it, but some of us did. We're just focusing on getting this win. Playing against North Carolina is always huge. It's a blue blood team."

Williams rooted for the Tar Heels while growing up in Charlotte, North Carolina. But he wasn't offered by North Carolina and eventually chose Tennessee after considering Yale, Princeton and Richmond.

He now is Tennessee's leading scorer and exemplifies how Barnes has built this program by developing under-the-radar prospects. Tennessee's roster doesn't include a single player who was rated as a

top-125 prospect according to a composite ranking of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports.

Tennessee still has found a way to produce occasional big moments under Barnes, particularly at home. The Vols have beaten Kentucky in Knoxville each of the last two years.

The next step is delivering those types of performances more consistently.

"If you beat Kentucky at home, why can't you beat other people?" Barnes said. "I don't want a team that gets up for one game and that's it. I want a team that every night, they're going to go out and compete. There's no doubt because of the tradition of Kentucky, North Carolina, Villanova, Michigan State, there's a different buzz when those teams come to town because, you know what, they've been good for a long time. There's no doubt that they're the ones that bring the buzz."

"I want our program to get to that point sometime. We're not there yet. Our goal's to get there, but we have a lot of steps in between we've got to take."

## College Football

## FAU, Navy, Miami and Memphis prepping for home bowl games

The Associated Press

BOCA RATON — Sometime late Friday afternoon, Florida Atlantic will load up its luggage and head south to the hotel that will house the Conference USA champions for their bowl-game preparations.

It'll be a 4-mile drive. The comforts of home await the Owls this weekend as they get ready to play in the Boca Raton Bowl, and they're hardly the only team in America that won't be seeing a new part of the country as part of the postseason perk package. FAU, Miami, Navy and Memphis are playing bowl games on their home fields, and five other teams — six if Georgia makes the College Football Playoff title game — will play bowls in their home states.

"A chance to stay home is really special, basically to have another home game," said FAU coach Lane Kiffin, whose Owls will essentially "host" Akron in the Boca Raton Bowl. "From that advantage, it's really neat. Our players obviously at first were like, 'Well, we don't get to go anywhere.' But then when they really looked at it, they realize, 'Hey, we're honored because we're going to the best bowl that there is for our conference.'"

The Boca Raton Bowl is Tuesday, the first of the four de facto home games for some teams in this postseason. Navy is remaining in Annapolis, Maryland, for its bowl, the Dec. 28 Military Bowl against Virginia. Miami is headed to the Orange Bowl on Dec. 30, where Wisconsin awaits. And Memphis

is off to the Liberty Bowl, set to meet Iowa State on Dec. 30.

Memphis had hopes of getting into a New Year's Six bowl. When that didn't happen after a loss to UCF in the American Athletic Conference title game, wide receiver Anthony Miller said going to the Liberty Bowl "was the next-best thing."

"I don't mind," Miller said. "I just love the energy of being at the Liberty Bowl. I love being in Memphis. I love the fans. It's my senior year. It's my last year. I don't think there's a better way that I could end it."

FAU hasn't been to a bowl game since 2008, so its upperclassmen all will attest that being home for a bowl obviously is better than being at home with no games left to play. Navy

had prearranged many of its bowl sites for the last decade or so, though now falls into the AAC mix — and the Military Bowl was thrilled to pit the Midshipmen against the Cavaliers, given how the campuses are roughly 150 miles apart.

Miami ended a decade-long bowl-victory drought last season, rose to No. 2 in the national rankings this season before dropping its final two games and has revealed in how that success re-energized the fan base. The Hurricanes fell out of CFP contention with losses to Pittsburgh and Clemson, but one last night at Hard Rock Stadium is more than a consolation prize for their seniors.

"It's going to be somewhat of a home game for us," coach Mark Richt said. "It is our home stadium.

Our fans have been phenomenal all year long. It's been one of the best turnouts of fans, probably in the history of Hard Rock Stadium. ... Even though we are home, in our home city, we know we're going to get a chance to do some things we don't normally get to do that the bowl will provide for us."

Florida International, SMU, Texas, TCU and Wake Forest are also playing in-state bowls. SMU is going only 28 miles to Frisco, Texas, for its game, Wake Forest is going 80 miles to Charlotte, and Texas coach Tom Herman is going back to Houston — his former home.

"I think it's neat," Herman said. "It's a city that my family and myself have called home on a couple of different occasions, at Rice

(and) at the University of Houston. ... It is a city that I have a lot of friends and people that I know back there, and I'm excited to bring our team out to Houston to play in front of them."

The last time Wake Forest went to Charlotte for a bowl game, the Demon Deacons brought 30,000 fans.

"We expect that number to increase," athletic director Ron Wellman said.

Miami isn't staying at "home," per se. The Hurricanes are moving to a resort in Broward County on Christmas night for bowl week, part of the Orange Bowl's contractual obligations. And even though Wisconsin and Akron both know they're playing road games, leaving winter behind for a few days seems like a fair trade-off.

## College Football

## In 2nd year, West Florida competes for D-II title

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Pete Shinnick sold the first recruits to West Florida on a picturesque campus situated a short swim from Pensacola Bay, an ambitious vision and the opportunity to build something memorable.

He surely didn't sell them on the single-wide trailers for locker rooms.

"I had a desk and a phone and that was about it," Shinnick recalled this week. "No players, no coaches. And I just started selling it. Our guys will get a new locker room and weight room in January, but back then there really wasn't much. We sold the university and we sold the experience."

That was a mere four years ago.

On Saturday, the program that began play just last season and upset top-seeded Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the Division II semifinals will play Texas A&M-Commerce for the national championship.

Hard to imagine for a school founded in the 1960s, plays its home games in a minor league



Texas A&M-Commerce quarterback Luis Perez (12) throws under pressure from Harding defender Sherrick Robinson during an NCAA Division II college football game in Commerce, Texas on Saturday.

baseball stadium and is better known for men's tennis and women's soccer.

"We went one complete year without coaching or playing football. That was one of the longest professional years of my life," said Shinnick, who also built the North Carolina-Pembroke program when it returned from a five-decade hiatus. "As a football coach you don't have much time in the fall, but

that fall I did. But when we started, we felt we had a great university, a great town, and we were looking for the right mix of young men. We set high expectations for them, talked about how good we could be."

The Argonauts spent the 2015 season practicing and playing against each other, then played their inaugural game last year. They wound up winning five games, beating No. 16

Florida Tech along the way.

They were 7-3 this season to qualify for the playoffs, but even then were considered a longshot to advance. But they upset No. 16 Wingate in the opening round, beat West Georgia and West Alabama the next two weeks, then toppled the heavily favored Crimson Hawks on the road.

That earned them a trip to Sporting Park in Kansas City for the national title

game. "People want to know what the formula is and all that," said Shinnick, who spent time earlier in his career on staffs at Arkansas, Clemson and Oregon State. "I just have great coaches and great players. We have developed a culture that we want and guys are buying in and trusting each other."

The Argonauts are only half of what makes this year's title game so improbable.

Texas A&M-Commerce has a proud tradition but had fallen on hard times by 2013, when Colby Carthel took over on the heels of back-to-back 1-9 seasons. The former West Texas A&M defensive coordinator quickly built a winning culture at the school situated northeast of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Texas A&M-Commerce returned to the playoffs two years ago, reached the second round last year and survived a double-overtime quarterfinal against Central Washington to reach this year's title game.

"We kind of started off asking everybody to believe in the vision," Carthel said. "This senior class is

leaving here as the all-time winningest class — there's been seven or eight of them that signed on when we were maybe the worst team in the country. They believe in the vision.

"We talked about taking over the Lone Star Conference. We did that. The past year or so, we talked about taking this program to the national level," Carthel said. "We never said we'd win a national title but we said we'd be competing for one year-in and year-out, and that's where we are today."

Even though the programs are relative newcomers to the national stage, they feature All-American talent on opposite sides of the ball. West Florida has second-team defensive lineman John Williamson and second-team defensive back Marvin Conley, while Texas A&M-Commerce boasts first-team quarterback Luis Perez and second-team offensive lineman Jared Machorro.

Perez led the nation with 4,390 yards passing this season, and his 42 touchdown tosses won him the Harlon Hill Trophy, given to Division II's top player.

## Sports Briefs

## Gators, Huskers set for NCAA volleyball championship match

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There is very little these days that can dampen the mood of Florida coach Mary Wise, whose Gators knocked off reigning national champion Stanford in the NCAA volleyball semifinals.

Not the daunting challenge of now facing Nebraska, a four-time champion. Or knowing that the Huskers have won 19 straight matches, including a semifinal victory over top-seeded Penn State. Or the pressure that her Gators face trying to win their first championship after eight semifinal appearances.

Wise even managed to put a positive spin on playing at Sprint Center in downtown Kansas City, where thousands of Nebraska fans made the short drive south to paint the building red Thursday night.

"Red and loud," she replied, when ask what she expects Saturday night. "This is so good for women's volleyball. Actually, it's great for women's volleyball, to have 18,000-plus and to be televised on ESPN. This is the growth of our sport. And our sport has grown in much part because of Nebraska."

"Their fans, their program — they get a whole lot of credit because they've been the standard-bearer for years in terms

of attendances," she said. "It's going to be a really fun environment."

It's not as if the Gators don't have reasons to be confident.

For one thing, they've been steeled by the pressure of five-set matches, winning all four of them this season. That included their match against the Cardinal, when the Gators (30-1) took the opening two sets, then withstood a rally by taking the decisive set 15-10 to advance.

Then there's the confidence that comes with having already beaten Nebraska this season.

The two met the opening weekend of the season with the Gators beating the Huskers in a five-set thriller at the VERT Challenge on their home court. But that comes with a caveat that the Huskers' star setter, Kelly Hunter, was injured and unavailable. "Our theme has kind of been, 'We've found a way to win,'" said the Gators' Rhamat Alhassan, who had 17 kills in the semifinal. "That's been the theme throughout the entire tournament."

Yes, the Gators have found a way to win. But so have the Huskers.

The tournament's fifth seed swept through the first three rounds before knocking off No. 4 seed Kentucky on the road to reach the Final Four. Then in the semifinals, the Huskers dropped the

second and third sets and were on the brink of elimination when they rallied to take the fourth set 28-26, and then used that momentum to take the decisive set 15-11.

The Huskers (30-4), in the Final Four for the third straight year, are trying to follow up the title they won two years ago in Omaha. And while they had a massive home-crowd advantage that year, they figure to have a similar advantage just a couple hours' drive south on Interstate 29.

GOLF

## Rose leads, Snedeker withdraws from Indonesian Masters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Justin Rose held a three-stroke lead at the Indonesian Masters when bad weather stopped play Friday during the second round.

The Englishman, who shot a 10-under 62 on Thursday, had completed 13 holes and was 5 under on the day at the Royale Jakarta Golf Club course.

Kiradech Aphibarnrat (64) was in second place.

Brandt Snedeker withdrew with an injury or illness on the 11th hole at 2 under for the day after shooting an opening 72.

There was no reason given for his withdrawal, but the American has been affected by a rib-sternum

injury for most of the season. Ranked 51st in the world, he flew to Jakarta looking to move inside the top 50 by the end of the year and ensure a spot in next year's Masters.

NASCAR

## 2017 Daytona 500 champ Kurt Busch returns to SHR

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — Kurt Busch will return to Stewart-Haas Racing for the 2018 season.

Busch, the 2017 Daytona 500 champion, will start his fifth season with SHR with a new crew chief. Busch will be paired on the No. 41 Ford with

Billy Scott, who takes over for Tony Gibson. Gibson will remain with SHR in a yet-to-be determined capacity.

Busch is the 2004 NAS-

CAR Cup champion and has 29 career victories. SHR had declined the 2018 contract option on Busch but the organization had said it planned to bring him back for another year.

Aric Almirola, who replaces Danica Patrick in the No. 10 Ford, will be paired with crew chief John Klausmeier, a team engineer with SHR since 2009. Klausmeier served as an interim crew chief for a Busch victory in 2016 at Pocono.



Busch



Florida players celebrate after winning a match against Stanford during the NCAA Division I volleyball semifinals in Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday.

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## College Football

## FSU president opens up about facilities, Fisher

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State President John Thrasher believes his football facilities compare favorably to any in the country, and there is still some bad blood between him and Jimbo Fisher.

When Fisher jetted out of Tallahassee to take the Texas A&M job, he fired some stinging parting shots, painting a picture of Seminole program in dire need of facility upgrades.

"My view of Jimbo was he wanted to model things after Nick Saban and the SEC and Alabama," Thrasher said Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm OK with that to a point but I'm also not going to put Florida State at risk in terms of debt and the responsibility to other programs. Him and I had an understanding about that."

They may have at one point, but Fisher has since made it clear there was a disconnect between them.

He jabbed at his former bosses during his introductory news conference at Texas A&M on Dec. 4, talking about the lack of progress to build a larger football complex. "You can have the greatest coaches

in the world, but if your administration doesn't see things the way you see things and allow you to do things that way, nothing can be achieved," Fisher said.

A year before he left when he signed a long-term extension at Florida State, Fisher had praised Thrasher for "seeing the big picture." Thrasher had lauded Fisher for being a perfectionist, though noted that dealing with Fisher could be complicated.

It's apparent Thrasher believes Fisher crossed the line, and he defended the program.

"Our facilities are pretty good right now," Thrasher said. "They're not bad at all and Willie Taggart will tell you he wants to get kids to come here not because of the facilities but because of the education they're going to get and leadership on the field."

Thrasher said the results of a feasibility study commissioned by the university should be completed soon. It will determine whether the university is best served by building a stand-alone facility or make renovations to the Moore Center, which currently houses football,



Willie Taggart (left) is greeted by Florida State University president John Thrasher before a news conference in Tallahassee on Dec. 6.

most of the athletic department along with classrooms.

Whatever the decision, Florida State's current facilities are good enough for Taggart.

Thrasher has known Taggart for only two weeks, but said the 41-year old coach — who grew up in Palmetto, Florida, as a Seminoles fan — has already made a positive impression on players and the faculty. Thrasher met Taggart for the first time in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Dec. 4 to discuss the job and he was introduced as

the school's 11th football coach two days later.

The same day he was named, Taggart appeared with Thrasher at the State of the University speech and received a standing ovation.

"His attitude toward the kids and approaching their success on and off the field. I hadn't quite heard that in the way he expressed things," Thrasher said of Taggart.

He may have found his man, but Thrasher didn't expect to be involved in a coaching search. The president felt when the school

gave Fisher an extension last December through 2024 that it was a lifetime contract — it lasted 11 months.

Thrasher had to deal with plenty of sticky situations as speaker of the Florida House of Representatives in 1999 and 2000, but said hiring a football coach was a unique challenge.

"I looked in the closet for the playbook on hiring a coach and there wasn't one," he said. "Stan had a good plan of working around the potential opportunities and it just worked."

Taggart received a six-year contract worth \$30 million that also includes paying the buyouts from his previous jobs at Oregon and South Florida.

Texas A&M gave Fisher a 10-year, \$75 million deal. He had a base salary of \$5.5 million this past season at Florida State, which still placed him among the highest-paid coaches in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

"I may have been reading him wrong but from every vibe I got this was where he wanted to be and wanted his kids to grow up," Thrasher said. "Honestly I think there were other things involved as far as him leaving."

Fisher went 83-23 at FSU, including a national championship in 2013, three Atlantic Coast Conference titles and four ACC Atlantic Division crowns.

The Seminoles (6-6) though struggled this season. They were ranked third in the AP Preseason Poll but lost quarterback Deondre Francois to a knee injury in a season-opening loss to Alabama. They won their final three games to get bowl eligible and will face Southern Mississippi in the Independence Bowl on Dec. 27.

## MLB

## Marlins trade Ozuna to Cardinals for 4 prospects

The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA — Miami completed its trade Thursday that sent left fielder Marcell Ozuna to the St. Louis Cardinals, the third All-Star jettisoned by the Marlins this month in an unrelenting payroll purge under new CEO Derek Jeter.

St. Louis dealt four prospects to the Marlins: right-handers Sandy Alcantara and Zac Gallen, outfielder Magneuris Sierra and left-hander Daniel Castano.

Miami traded second baseman Dee Gordon to Seattle last Thursday for three prospects and dealt right fielder Giancarlo Stanton, the reigning NL MVP, to the New York Yankees on Monday for second baseman Starlin Castro and two prospects.

"This is the direction we are taking, and we're committed to it, and we're going to build this thing the right



Miami Marlins outfielder Marcell Ozuna watches his RBI triple during the game against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta on Sept. 7.

way from the ground up," Marlins president of baseball operations Mike Hill said before the trade was finalized. "And I think that's the part of it that we have to stay committed to, because when you get off of that

path, that's when you empty out your system, and for an organization like the Marlins, we have to be able to reach into our system. Our system has to be a constant and consistent feeder for our major league team."

Center fielder Christian Yelich could be the next to exit the downsizing Marlins, bought by Bruce Sherman's group on Oct. 2. Miami had a \$116 million payroll on Aug. 31, up from \$81 million at the end of last year, and is intent on reducing obligations. Stanton was owed \$295 million over the next decade, and Gordon \$38 million through 2020.

"We're going to take a step back, reassess where everything is, what we were able to accomplish here at the meetings and then continue on and prepare for spring training," Hill said.

An All-Star the past two seasons, the 27-year-old Ozuna set career bests this season with a .312 average, 37 homers and 124 RBIs. He is eligible for salary arbitration and likely will earn more than \$10 million. He can become a free agent after the 2019 season.

"Ozuna is one of those names that you have to have great respect, especially as much we see him," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said Wednesday. "We're at that necessary point of talking through health always, no matter what the player is. It's not just a formality."

St. Louis had a deal in place for Stanton last week, but he invoked his no-trade clause and blocked the move.

Ozuna likely will be in the outfield with Dexter Fowler and Tommy Pham. Matheny wouldn't commit to an alignment.

"Something we're appreciative of is the humility of our players to maybe go to a spot where they haven't been before," he said. "You go in with your ideals of what you would like to see, and you're going to have to be flexible."

St. Louis traded right fielder Stephen Piscotty to

Oakland for infield prospects Yairo Munoz and Max Schrock. That deal allows Piscotty to be near his family's home in Pleasanton, California, following his mother's diagnosis with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Also Thursday, the Cardinals and right-hander reliever Luke Gregerson finalized an \$11 million, two-year contract.

Miami receives highly regarded prospects in the 21-year-old Sierra and 22-year-old Alcantara. Sierra hit .317 over 22 games in his first big league season this year and also batted .270 with 21 doubles, seven triples 20 steals and 44 RBIs at Class A Palm Beach and Double-A Springfield. The 22-year-old Alcantara made his debut Sept. 3 and had a 4.32 ERA in eight relief appearances. He was 7-5 with a 4.31 ERA in 22 starts and three relief appearances at Springfield.

## College Basketball

## Charlotte fires coach, former NBA star Mark Price

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte 49ers athletic director Judy Rose said the decision to fire men's basketball coach Mark Price was strictly performance-based, citing the team's lack of intensity.

The school announced Thursday that Price was released from his contract effective immediately. Assistant coach Houston Fancher, who has 12 years of head coaching experience, will serve as the 49ers interim head coach.

The 53-year-old Price, who was a four-time NBA All-Star guard, was in his third season with the 49ers and had a 30-42 record overall. He was 16-20 in Conference USA play.

Charlotte is 3-6 this season.

Rose told The Associated Press on Thursday she felt the program was "trending in the wrong direction."

"When I looked at the games and how we came out and played, we weren't playing with the inten-

sity to win — we weren't prepared," Rose said. "We would come out and fall behind and it was difficult to catch up."

Rose said she'd recently spoken to Price about what she considered a troubling trend.

She was particularly unhappy with the team's performance in the last two games — an 80-57 defeat to Wake Forest and a 64-50 loss to Chattanooga — part of a four-game losing streak.

"I told (Price) it looked like we were going through the motions, instead of playing with intensity," Rose said. "I didn't get an answer (as to why), and I didn't see an answer."

Price told the Charlotte Observer on Thursday that he was "stunned" by the move.

Price was a two-time All-American and four-time All ACC basketball player at Georgia Tech, where he ended his career as the school's all-time leader in 3-point field goal percentage, steals and consecutive games started.



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# BOWL GUIDE

Once again, columnist Aaron McFarling handicaps the bowl season. All picks are made against the Las Vegas points spread. A minus sign means the team is favored and must win by more than that number of points. A plus sign means the team is the underdog and must win the game or lose by fewer than the designated points. Last year's ATS record: 23-19 (54.8 percent).

## DEC. 16

### Celebration Bowl

Grambling (+9.5) over North Carolina A&T; 11 a.m., ABC Mercedes-Benz Stadium; Atlanta  
Grambling won this matchup outright last year and carries a 10-game winning streak into the rematch. Ole Miss transfer DeVante Kincade has a touchdown-to-interception ratio of 31-to-4 for the Tigers.

### R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl

Troy (-7) over North Texas; Noon, ESPN Mercedes-Benz Superdome; New Orleans  
North Texas has a 1,000-yard rusher in Jeffery Wilson, but he sat out the past two games with a broken foot. Troy outscored its opponents by an average of 12.5 points, while the Mean Green was plus-2.1.

### AutoNation Cure Bowl

Georgia State (+6.5) over W. Kentucky; 1:30 p.m., CBSN Camping World Stadium; Orlando, Florida  
Georgia State went 5-1 away from home this season year and has a quarterback named (Conner) Manning. You'll see a lot of footballs in the air in this fairly even matchup; take the points.

### Las Vegas Bowl

Oregon (-7.5) over No. 25 Boise State; 2:30 p.m., ABC Sam Boyd Stadium; Las Vegas  
The Ducks have averaged 52.1 points in the seven games played by QB Justin Herbert, who missed the other five to injury. The fact that he's playing means more than the absence of coach Willie Taggart, who took the Florida Stage gig.

### GILDAN New Mexico Bowl

Marshall (+5.5) over Colorado State; 3:30 p.m., ESPN Dreamstyle Stadium; Albuquerque  
The Thundering Herd has been money in bowl games, posting a 10-2 record. Marshall has an experienced quarterback in Chase Litton and a defense that allows just 19.2 points per game. CSU has dropped six straight against the spread.

### Raycom Media Camellia Bowl

Arkansas State (-3.5) over Middle Tennessee; 7 p.m., ESPN Cramton Bowl; Montgomery, Alabama  
Two-time Sun Belt Player of the Year Ja'Von Rolland-Jones needs just one sack to break Terrell Suggs' FB's career record of 44. On the other side of the ball, ASU QB Justice Hansen threw for 3,630 yards and 34 TDs.

## DEC. 19

### Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl

Florida Atlantic (-22.5) over Akron; 6 p.m., ESPN FAU Stadium; Boca Raton, Florida  
Coach Lane Kiffin has turned around an FAU team that went 3-9 in each of the previous three seasons. The Zips, who aren't very good offensively and can be forgiven if they enjoy the bowl site, will get blown out here by the host Owls.

## DEC. 20

### DXL Frisco Bowl

Louisiana Tech (+5) over SMU; 7 p.m., ESPN Toyota Stadium; Frisco, Texas  
The Bulldogs have won three straight bowl games. SMU will be without coach Chad Morris, who's been hired by Arkansas. This will be a high-scoring affair that could go either way, so taking the points is best.

## DEC. 21

### Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl

Florida International (+7) over Temple; 7 p.m., ESPN Tropicana Field; St. Petersburg, Florida  
The name of this bowl is way better than the matchup. The Owls have been better after turning to QB Frank Nutile over the final five games, but a touchdown is too much to give with this inconsistent offense.

## DEC. 22

### Bahamas Bowl

UAB (+7.5) over Ohio; 11:30 a.m., ESPN Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium; Nassau, Bahamas  
Longtime readers of the Bowl Guide know its distaste for the MAC in the postseason. The Blazers, who are playing in their first bowl game in 13 years, have plenty of motivation and could win this game outright.

### Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

Wyoming (pick 'em) over Central Michigan; 3 p.m., ESPN Lyle Smith Field at Albertsons Stadium; Boise, Idaho  
This one could hinge on the health of Cowboys QB Josh Allen, who's been nursing a shoulder injury. He's a legitimate NFL prospect despite an up-and-down 2017. We'll fade the MAC once again here.

## DEC. 23

### Birmingham Bowl

Texas Tech (+2.5) over South Florida; 11 a.m., ESPN Legion Field; Birmingham, Alabama  
When the Bulls closed the regular season with a wild 49-42 loss to Central Florida, they covered the spread for the first time in five games. The Red Raiders faced a significantly better schedule than Charlie Strong's bunch did.

### Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

San Diego State (-7.5) over Army; 2:30 p.m., ESPN Amon G. Carter Stadium; Fort Worth, Texas  
This game might take less than 3 hours to play, as both teams feature ground-heavy attacks. Led by 2,000-yard rusher Rashad Penny, the Aztecs have covered in their past four games — all as a favorite of 7.5 points or more.

### Dollar General Bowl

Appalachian State (+7.5) over Toledo; 6 p.m., ESPN Ladd-Peebles Stadium; Mobile, Alabama  
Behind a sturdy offensive line, the Mountaineers outtrashed their final three opponents by more than 500 combined yards. Toledo probably wins this game, but ASU can play keep-away and make the final score close.

## DEC. 24

### Hawai'i Bowl

Fresno State (+2.5) vs. Houston; 7:30 p.m., ESPN Aloha Stadium; Honolulu  
Bettors who've doubted the Bulldogs have paid for it all year, as FSU has gone a glittering 10-2 against the spread. The Mountain West's best scoring defense helped engineer an eight-win improvement over last season.

## College Football Playoff schedule

### JAN. 1

College Football Playoff at the Rose Bowl Game Presented by Northwestern Mutual  
No. 3 Georgia (-1.5) over No. 2 Oklahoma; 4 p.m., ESPN Rose Bowl; Pasadena, California

A terrific matchup pits Heisman Trophy-winning Sooners quarterback Baker Mayfield against a Georgia defense that ranked second nationally (behind Alabama) with just 5.58 yards allowed per passing attempt. Oklahoma's exceptional offensive line will be tested here. While the Bulldogs could be in trouble if this game gets into a shootout, here's guessing it's not as high scoring as many anticipate. Bulldogs advance on the strength of their "D," led by Butkus Award winner Roquan Smith.

College Football Playoff at the Allstate Sugar Bowl

No. 1 Clemson (+2.5) over No. 4 Alabama; 7:45 p.m., ESPN Mercedes-Benz Superdome; New Orleans  
While debates raged over Alabama's worthiness to be in this game, the betting public had no so qualms, shifting the line in the Crimson Tide's favor after it opened as a pick 'em. Time off will benefit Alabama, which was banged up at the end of the season, but can the Tide effectively operate its preferred running attack against Clemson's stellar defensive line? The answer is no. Not enough, anyway, as Alabama loses this low-scoring slugfest outright to finish the season 5-8 against the spread.



Baker Mayfield  
Oklahoma



Roquan Smith  
Georgia



Dexter Lawrence  
Clemson



Jalen Hurts  
Alabama

## DEC. 26

### Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl

West Virginia (+7) over Utah; 12:30 p.m., ESPN Cotton Bowl; Dallas  
An injury to quarterback Will Grier took a lot of the fight out of the Mountaineers down the stretch, while the Utes closed the season competitively. Still, seven points seems like a lot to give with a .500 Utah squad.

### Quick Lane Bowl

Northern Illinois (+5) over Duke; 4:15 p.m., ESPN Ford Field; Detroit  
The Blue Devils closed with wins over Georgia Tech and Wake Forest to qualify for this bowl. Still, we know this isn't one of David Cutcliffe's best teams. Hard to lay points with them this year, even against a MAC foe.

### Cactus Bowl

UCLA (+2) over Kansas State; 8 p.m., ESPN Chase Field; Phoenix  
Both of these teams have been disappointing, going a combined 9-17 against the spread. Bruins QB Josh Rosen is listed as probable after leaving the regular-season finale against Cal with a shoulder injury.

## DEC. 27

### Walk-On's Independence Bowl

Southern Miss (+15.5) over Florida State; 12:30 p.m., ESPN Independence Stadium; Shreveport, Louisiana  
The Seminoles didn't cover a single spread this year until Nov. 18, when it began a run of three straight wins against the number. No Jimbo Fisher or Derwin James for this one. The run of underdog plays continues.

### New Era Pinstripe Bowl

Boston College (+3) over Iowa; 4:15 p.m., ESPN Yankee Stadium; New York  
Scot Loeffler has the BC offense humming. The Eagles have averaged 36 points over their past six games, winning five of them. The Hawkeyes famously beat Ohio State this year but have dropped five bowl games in a row.

### Foster Farms Bowl

Arizona (-3.5) vs. Purdue; 7:30 p.m., FOX Levi's Stadium; Santa Clara, California  
The Boilermakers haven't beaten a Power Five team in a bowl game since 2002, and they'll face an offense that ranks sixth nationally in scoring. Rich Rodriguez's team doesn't play much (any?) defense but should win here.

### Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl

Missouri (-3) over Texas; 8 p.m., ESPN NRG Stadium; Houston  
The line has moved two points since several of Texas' top players have announced that they're skipping this bowl to prepare for the NFL Draft. Tigers quarterback Drew Lock leads the nation with 44 passing touchdowns.

## DEC. 28

### Military Bowl Presented by Northrop Grumman

Virginia (-2) over Navy; 12:30 p.m. ESPN Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium; Annapolis, Maryland  
Navy opened as a 3.5-point favorite, but that was before the Midshipmen lost to Army in their annual showdown to fall to 1-6 over a seven-game stretch. The Wahoos punctuate a season of progress with a victory here.

### Camping World Bowl

No. 19 Okla. State (-4.5) over No. 22 Va. Tech; 4:15 p.m., ESPN Camping World Stadium; Orlando, Florida  
The Hokies have been favored by two touchdowns or more a whopping seven times this year, and they've won each time. That means they're just 2-3 in games expected to be close. An injury-riddled Tech team will struggle to keep up.

### Valero Alamo Bowl

No. 15 TCU (-2.5) over Stanford; 8 p.m., ESPN Alamodome; San Antonio  
Two teams that lost their conference championship games square off in a good matchup. Cardinal RB Bryce Love (1,973 rushing yards), the Heisman Trophy runner-up, will be engaged by the nation's No. 4 rushing defense.

### San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl

No. 16 Mich. State (+3) over No. 18 Wash. State; 8 p.m., FOX SDCCU Stadium; San Diego  
Seven of WSU's nine wins came at home, where the Cougars went unbeaten, and they looked pretty bad in road losses to Washington (41-14) and Arizona (58-37). The Spartans rank ninth nationally in total defense.

## DEC. 29

### Belk Bowl

Wake Forest (-3) over Texas A&M; Noon, ESPN Bank of America Stadium; Charlotte  
New TAMU coach Jimbo Fisher will be watching with interest as the Aggies face a Wake team his Florida State squad beat 26-19 in late September. The Deacons, who've gone 8-3 against the spread, have a balanced offense that ranks 29th nationally.

### Hyundai Sun Bowl

Arizona State (+6.5) over N.C. State; 2 p.m., CBS Sun Bowl; El Paso, Texas  
The Sun Devils have a crummy defense, but the Wolfpack has dealt with a slew of injuries this season. N.C. State has not been good as a favorite, either, going 1-5-1 against the spread. The lone cover came against Pitt on Oct. 14.

### Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl

No. 21 Northwestern (-7) over Kentucky; 3:30 p.m., ESPN Nissan Stadium; Nashville, Tennessee  
Not only are the Wildcats riding a seven-game winning streak, but they've also covered the spread in all seven of those victories to move to 9-3 against the number. Kentucky is 3-9 ATS, covering just once since Sept. 23.

### NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl

New Mexico State (+4) over Utah State; 4:30 p.m., CBSN Arizona Stadium; Tucson, Arizona  
Aggies vs. Aggies here, with New Mexico State ending the nation's longest bowl drought. NMSU hasn't been bowling since 1960, when its opponent happened to be this same Utah State program. NMSU has the nation's No. 4 passing offense.

### Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic

No. 5 Ohio State (-7.5) over No. 8 USC; 7:30 p.m., ESPN AT&T Stadium; Arlington, Texas  
These teams have identical 11-2 records, but the Trojans are just 3-9-1 against the spread. Playoff-jilted Ohio State isn't much better in that department (6-7). Southern Cal has failed to cover in its past four meetings with Big Ten teams.

## DEC. 30

### TaxSlayer Bowl

No. 23 Mississippi State (+6.5) over Louisville; 11 a.m., ESPN EverBank Field; Jacksonville, Florida  
An ankle injury to MSU quarterback Nick Fitzgerald took some of the steam out of this matchup of exciting signal-callers. Still, it'll be fun to watch Louisville's Lamar Jackson try to solve the nation's 10th-ranked defense.

### AutoZone Liberty Bowl

Iowa State (+3.5) over No. 20 Memphis; 11:30 a.m., ABC Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium; Memphis, Tennessee  
Best known for handing Oklahoma its lone loss this season, Iowa State made a habit of surprising people all year, going 10-1 against the spread. For the first time in Liberty Bowl history, the hometown team is playing in the game.

### PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

No. 11 Washington (+2) over No. 9 Penn State; 3 p.m., ESPN University of Phoenix Stadium; Glendale, Arizona  
Nittany Lions RB Saquon Barkley (2,154 yards) against the nation's No. 1 rushing defense? I'll sign up for that. The Huskies have a decent backfield option of their own in Myles Gaskin, who's run for 1,282 yards and 19 touchdowns.

### Capital One Orange Bowl

No. 6 Wisconsin (-6.5) over No. 10 Miami; 7 p.m., ESPN Hard Rock Stadium; Miami Gardens, Florida  
The Badgers didn't play a tough schedule, but they went 8-5 against the spread with it. For all the excitement around Miami's return to prominence this season, the Hurricanes went just 5-7 ATS. Home game for UM here despite a split crowd.

## JAN. 1

### Outback Bowl

South Carolina (+7.5) over Michigan; 11 a.m., ESPN2 Raymond James Stadium; Tampa, Florida  
The over-under is a chintzy 43 here because both teams rank outside the top 100 in total offense. The Wolverines have the edge defensively, but can they score enough points to cover more than a TD? The better bet is no.

### Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl

No. 12 UCF (+9.5) over No. 7 Auburn; 11:30 a.m., ESPN Mercedes-Benz Stadium; Atlanta  
"Dang...Bama got in over us." That was the official UCF Twitter account's clever response to the playoff selections. The odds-makers think Auburn is a significantly better team. Probably so, but it'd be cool to see the Knights go 13-0.

### Citrus Bowl Presented by Overton's

No. 17 LSU (-3) over Notre Dame; Noon, ABC Camping World Stadium; Orlando, Florida  
Two teams that love to line up and run the ball serve as the appetizer before the evening's playoff games. Bettors pounced on the Tigers early when the line came out at LSU -1 — probably because the Irish haven't covered a spread since Oct. 28.



T.J. Rahming  
Duke



Derwin James  
Florida State



Connor Strachan  
Boston College



Lamar Jackson  
Louisville



Andrew Motuapuaka  
Virginia Tech



Kurt Benkert  
Virginia



ShaqQuarterman  
Miami



Jaylen Samuels  
N.C. State



Kendall Hinton  
Wake Forest

**NFL STANDINGS**

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**EAST**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	368	250
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	240	290
Miami	6	7	0	.462	236	318
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	266	311

**SOUTH**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	329	202
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615	273	294
Houston	4	9	0	.308	312	335
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	225	368

**NORTH**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	320	251
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	318	246
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	226	271
Cleveland	0	13	0	.000	197	335

**WEST**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	6	0	.538	329	289
L.A. Chargers	7	6	0	.538	298	225
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	264	304
Denver	5	9	0	.357	254	328

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**EAST**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	404	250
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	316	294
Washington	5	8	0	.385	285	344
N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	199	321

**SOUTH**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	9	4	0	.692	370	263
Carolina	9	4	0	.692	300	262
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	294	261
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	264	312

**NORTH**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	309	235
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	338	329
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	285	302
Chicago	4	9	0	.308	224	274

**WEST**

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	396	265
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	314	252
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	231	317
San Francisco	3	10	0	.231	228	314

y - clinched division

**THURSDAY**

Denver 25, Indianapolis 13

**SATURDAY**

Chicago at Detroit, 3:30 p.m.

L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY**

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

**WEEK 15**

# NFL GAMEDAY



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Packers QB Aaron Rodgers has played well against the Panthers, averaging 307.5 yards per game with 12 touchdown passes and three interceptions over the past four meetings. Carolina's defense is ranked fifth in the NFL.

## Rodgers' return gives Pack hope



Green Bay's path to playoffs starts at Carolina

By Steve Reed  
The Associated Press

**NOON GREEN BAY AT CAROLINA**

- » **Series record:** Packers lead 9-5
- » **Last meeting:** Panthers beat Packers 37-29, Nov. 8, 2015
- » **Last week:** Packers beat Browns 27-21; Panthers beat Vikings 31-24
- » **Packers offense:** Overall (25), rush (17), pass (24)
- » **Packers defense:** Overall (26), rush (18), pass (24)
- » **Panthers offense:** Overall (18), rush (5), pass (28)
- » **Panthers defense:** Overall (5), rush (13), pass (7)
- » **Notes:** Packers RB Jamaal Williams had 118 yards from scrimmage and two TDs last week vs. Cleveland. ... **WR Davante Adams** tied for second in NFL with nine TD catches. He had winning 25-yard TD catch in overtime last week vs. Browns. ... **WR Jordy Nelson** has at least 80 yards receiving and TD in last two games vs. Panthers. ... **LB Blake Martinez** third in NFL in tackles with 117. ... **Ha Ha Clinton-Dix** has 10 interceptions since 2015, second most among NFL safeties. ... Panthers have won three straight at home. ... Panthers' **Cam Newton** leads NFL QBs in yards rushing (585) and has five TDs rushing. ... **RB Jonathan Stewart** had 103 yards and three TDs rushing last week vs. Vikings. ... **RB Christian McCaffrey** has four TDs in last four home games. ... **WR Devin Funchess** has TD catch in last two games.

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.**

The Green Bay Packers are hoping the return of Aaron Rodgers can propel them into the postseason. But the Packers (7-6) are going to need plenty of help aside from the two-time NFL Most Valuable Player's return, as they remain on the outside looking in at the NFC playoff race entering Sunday's game against the Carolina Panthers. Green Bay is three games behind Minnesota with three games remaining, so winning the NFC North is considered a long shot. The Packers trail the Panthers (9-4), Falcons (8-5) and Seahawks (8-5) in the race for two wild-card spots. Rodgers knows the Packers have to win all three remaining games, but downplayed his first start since breaking his collarbone in Week 6. "Hopefully it gives a lift to some of the guys but I'm not coming back to save this team," Rodgers said. "I'm

coming back to play quarterback the way I know how to play it." Packers coach Mike McCarthy said he wasn't surprised Rodgers was able to return so quickly given how aggressively he attacked his rehabilitation — and his desire to win. Further south, Rodgers' return has been greeted with a mere shrug of the shoulders. It's not that the Panthers don't respect Rodgers, but Carolina coach Ron Rivera has been preaching to his No. 5 ranked defense to prepare for the Packers as if Brett Hundley was still the starting QB. "To us it shouldn't be a big deal," Rivera said. "They said he was going to be back for our game. That's what we expected. I don't want our guys getting caught up in it. I want our guys focusing on getting prepared." But maybe there is some reason to be concerned. Rodgers has played well against Carolina. He's averaging 307.5 yards per game with 12 touchdown passes and three interceptions over the past four meetings.

**3 THINGS TO WATCH**

- 1. Peppers faces old foe:** Mike McCarthy said he's not surprised that Julius Peppers is on the verge of his ninth double-digit sack season. The 37-year-old defensive end has 9½ sacks coming into the game against his former team. McCarthy said that Peppers works hard, was a great leader during his three seasons for the Packers and has nothing but respect him.
- 2. Balance with the backs:** There was at least one benefit for the offense without Rodgers: the Packers rediscovered their running game. Rookie running backs Jamaal Williams and Aaron Jones have each had 100-yard games since Rodgers got hurt, and the Packers even incorporated some read-option looks with Hundley at quarterback. Those plays are likely to go away with Rodgers back,

though the production out of the backfield has brought more balance. Williams, who has secured the starting job of late, has also become a threat in the passing game, with two receiving touchdowns over the past three weeks.

- 3. The Claymaker:** Linebacker Clay Matthews is on a pass-rushing roll with five sacks over his past three games, plus the pressure last week on Browns quarterback DeShone Kizer that led to an interception in overtime by Packers safety Josh Jones to set up Green Bay's game-winning score. There was good news midweek for the pass rush with linebacker Nick Perry, who has seven sacks, returning to practice on a limited basis following foot and shoulder injuries. But the Packers face a more difficult challenge this week with Carolina quarterback Cam Newton's mobility.

**TODAY'S GAMES**

By Barry Wilner, The Associated Press

**NOON HOUSTON AT JACKSONVILLE**

OK, take a deep breath and listen: Jacksonville clinches a playoff berth with a win. It can even get in with help in other cities despite a loss. Not only that, the Jaguars, with their terrific pass rush and strong ground game, have a shot at a playoff bye. "To be at the bottom and to finally fight our way, work our way and get back up, just to be in the position that we're at now, it's great and it shows you that we've finally started to earn the right to win," said LB Paul Posluszny.

**NOON BALTIMORE AT CLEVELAND**

A sputtering offense came to life for the Ravens at Pittsburgh, where they should have won to make them a solid leader for a wild card. Even if that attack goes back to its previous ways, seeing Baltimore destroy much of its postseason chances in this one is unlikely. A 3-0 finish gets the Ravens in. A 3-0 finish would be miraculous for the Browns, the first team in NFL history to start 0-13 in consecutive seasons.

**NOON ARIZONA AT WASHINGTON**

Of interest here — wait, we'll find something — is Cardinals RB Adrian Peterson, who needs one rushing TD to reach 100 and 37 yards to pass the great Jim Brown (12,312) on the career rushing list. But Peterson is battling a neck problem that could sideline him for the final three games.

**NOON CINCINNATI AT MINNESOTA**

Vikings will secure NFC North crown for second time in three seasons by winning, and the Bengals have never won in five trips to Minnesota. Cincinnati didn't even show up at home last Sunday in being routed by the Bears. Yes, the Bears. Minnesota's defense had an off day at Carolina, but is formidable enough to win big. The combined record of teams the Vikings have lost to is 27-12. Combined record of teams the Bengals have beaten, counting the Browns twice, is 14-51. Vikings coach Mike Zimmer was the defensive coordinator for the Bengals under current coach Marvin Lewis from 2008-2013. And here's a strange stat: Lewis has never lost to any former assistant, going 6-0-1.

**NOON PHILADELPHIA AT N.Y. GIANTS**

An Eagles victory and a Vikings loss makes Philly the place to go through in the NFC playoffs. Of course, Eagles fans mostly are looking at the bleak side: Carson Wentz, the superb young quarterback who has engineered much of this year's turnaround, tore his left ACL at the Rams and is done for the season. Then again, Philly probably could suit up Ron Jaworski instead of Nick Foles and win this by letting its top-notch defense loose against the beleaguered Giants. The Eagles have won six of seven and 15 of the past 19 against the Giants.

**3:05 P.M. L.A. RAMS AT SEATTLE**

The Rams lost two of four in the midst of a very difficult stretch. Now, the key division matchup with the banged-up, penalty-prone Seahawks. Seattle, whose air of invincibility at home has been punctured with two losses in the past three, won the first meeting and would have the tiebreaker with a repeat. This easily could come down to Russell Wilson, making a late run for league MVP, lighting up the skies against Rams QB Jared Goff, one of the NFL's most-improved players in 2017. LA is 3-0 after a loss; the Eagles beat the Rams last Sunday.

**3:25 P.M. NEW ENGLAND AT PITTSBURGH**

Until their flop in Miami on Monday night, the way the New England Patriots were performing was the way so many predicted they would heading into the season: a powerhouse. And how the Pittsburgh Steelers were squeezing past inferior foes brought into question whether they could slow down the Foxborough freight train. Then the Dolphins did so one day after the Steelers needed another late rally to edge archrival Baltimore and clinch the AFC North. So while Sunday's contest at Heinz Field will almost certainly decide the top seed in the AFC, it's not exactly Ali-Frazier, two undefeated heavyweights facing off.

**NOON MIAMI AT BUFFALO**

After stunning New England, the Dolphins go to a place they don't much like, particularly in December. RB Ryan Drake has emerged and receiver Jarvis Landry remains steady. The defense befuddled Brady last Monday night, and expected starter Tyrod Taylor is no Brady. Bills star LeSean McCoy probably has been doing a snow dance all week. He was dominant in last weekend's 13-7 overtime win a blizzard against Indianapolis, the second time in his career the running back has dashed through the snow like that.

**NOON N.Y. JETS AT NEW ORLEANS**

New Orleans owns the tiebreaker over Carolina thanks to a season sweep, and gets fortunate here. Josh McCown, having the best season of his lengthy, vagabond pro career, has a broken hand, so untested Bryce Petty gets the start. The Saints lost two of their past three, against top-level opponents, so they aren't likely to fall into any traps. Their well-balanced and top-ranked offense could go wild against the inconsistent Jets, and no team has improved more on D than Nawlins.

**3:25 P.M. TENNESSEE AT SAN FRANCISCO**

The Titans can't afford a stumble against the suddenly competitive Niners. San Francisco lost its first nine, but now has won three of four. Jimmy Garoppolo is playing like he will fill that franchise QB role the Niners hoped he would when they dealt with New England to get him. Tennessee has a showdown in Music City in Week 17 with the Jaguars. The Titans can make that a winner-take-the-division matchup if they beat San Francisco and then the Rams in Nashville next week.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys WR Dez Bryant has six touchdown catches this season.

**7:30 P.M. - NBC DALLAS AT OAKLAND**

Oakland might need to win out for any shot at the postseason. Same for Dallas, chasing a wild card in the much-stronger NFC. With star RB Zeke Elliott suspended for one more game, the combination of Dak Prescott throwing to Jason Witten and Dez Bryant has been the focal point on offense. Prescott's coming off his first 300-yard passing game of the season with a career-high 332 against the woeful Giants. After fizzling in KC, Oakland needs to rediscover its offense and get pressure on Prescott from Bruce Irvin and Khalil Mack.

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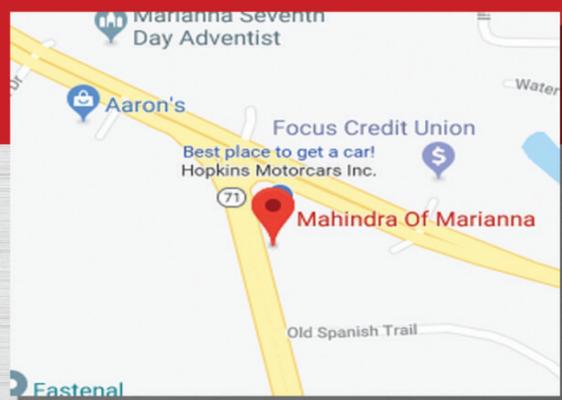


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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**The Answers**  
(No peeking, now.)

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**Healthy Lifestyle**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Hose woes
- 6. Bag to Coco Chanel
- 9. Dart
- 13. Dam
- 14. \*Public health research org.
- 15. Pageant prize
- 16. Not slouching
- 17. Gershwin brother
- 18. Slide to open
- 19. \*Exertion session
- 21. \*Lack of this can lead to sickness and weakness
- 23. Partaker's pronoun
- 24. E-mailed
- 25. Employment

- 28. Homemade swing seat
- 30. Wacko one
- 35. Second-hand
- 37. First rate
- 39. Crossbeam
- 40. International Civil Aviation Org.
- 41. \*Blood pump
- 43. Military no-show
- 44. Editor's insertion mark
- 46. Affect emotionally
- 47. Raise the roof
- 48. Lands
- 50. "Put a lid \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 52. \_\_\_\_\_ and don'ts
- 53. Regular attendee
- 55. \*Do it to fruits and veggies

- 57. \*Important healthy life-style unit
- 61. Nonsensical
- 65. Courtroom excuse
- 66. Unit of absorbed radiation
- 68. Words to live by
- 69. Java cotton tree
- 70. Hot temper
- 71. Spot for waterline marks, pl.
- 72. Gaelic
- 73. Typographer's measurement units
- 74. Speck in the ocean

**DOWN**

- 1. A whole bunch
- 2. Agrippina's slayer
- 3. Affirm with confidence
- 4. GEICO's mascot
- 5. Take the first steps
- 6. Hissy fit
- 7. \*Fresh need
- 8. Irritate by rubbing
- 9. Certain Scandinavian
- 10. Take it easy
- 11. Pupil's place
- 12. Memorial Day solo
- 15. "You should be ashamed!"
- 20. Heep of "David Copperfield"
- 22. Night spot

- 24. Washington post
- 25. \*Jay Kordich's favorite drink
- 26. Extinct Italic language
- 27. Soul patch or chin curtain
- 29. Fish eggs, pl.
- 31. Carhop's load
- 32. Chewed
- 33. Convex molding
- 34. \*Kettle\_\_\_\_\_
- 36. "Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ It Better"
- 38. Ireland, romantically
- 42. "\_\_\_\_-and-true"
- 45. Mongolian monetary unit
- 49. Hawaiian dish
- 51. \*Meditative Chinese exercise

- 54. Ghostlike
- 56. Tori, sing.
- 57. Have it and eat it too
- 58. Banned apple spray
- 59. "Loose \_\_\_\_\_ sink ships"
- 60. Piercing woodwind
- 61. 15th of March
- 62. "Go \_\_\_\_\_ it on the Mountain"
- 63. \*Get moving and don't remain this
- 64. C in COGS
- 67. \*Biceps location

**Disney buying large part of 21st Century Fox in \$52.4B deal**

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Disney is buying the Murdoch family's Fox movie and television studios and some cable and international TV businesses for about \$52.4 billion, as the home of Mickey Mouse tries to meet competition from technology companies in the entertainment business.

Disney's all-stock deal for 21st Century Fox gives it the studios that produce the Avatar movies, "The Simpsons" and "Modern Family," though Murdoch will keep the U.S. television networks, including Fox News Channel and Fox Broadcasting. "The Simpsons" will continue to air on Murdoch's Fox stations. The deal also brings Marvel characters such as X-Men and The Avengers under one roof — Disney's.



The Walt Disney Co. logo appears on a screen above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Aug. 8.

many years assembling the components of his empire," said NYU business professor Samuel Craig, who specializes in the entertainment industry.

Rupert Murdoch has ostensibly already handed the reins over to a new generation at Fox. His son James is CEO, while his other son, Lachlan, like Rupert, has the title of executive chairman.

The Murdoch empire has already been divided. After a phone-hacking newspaper scandal in the U.K., News Corp. was split off into a separate company for the publishing and newspaper businesses, which include the New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Sun and The Times in the U.K., and book publisher HarperCollins. Now, Fox is slimming down, with the bulk of the company going to Disney.

There's Netflix, which is spending up to \$8 billion on programming next year. Amazon is building its own library, having splashed out on global TV rights to "Lord of the Rings." Facebook, Google and Apple are also investing in video.

As consumers spend more time online, TV's share of U.S. ad spending is shrinking. Advertisers are following consumer attention to the internet, where Google and Facebook win the vast majority of advertisers' dollars.

To combat this trend, Disney is launching its own streaming services. It could beef them up with some of the assets it's acquiring from Fox, making them exclusive to its services and sharpening its ability to compete with Netflix for consumer dollars.

Disney CEO Robert Iger said many Fox properties will fit with the new service, including possibly National Geographic and additional Marvel productions. As for sports, Disney is getting Fox's

regional sports networks, including the Yes Network showing the New York Yankees. In some cases, though, Disney will have to wait for existing Fox deals to expire. Fox movies are exclusive to HBO through 2022, for example.

"We've been talking about cord cutting for the better part of a decade. But now it's real," USC Annenberg communications professor Chris Smith said. The media companies have to compete with the internet giants for consumers' attention — and the younger generations pay more attention to YouTube, Facebook and other "platforms" than traditional TV, Smith said.

**The mechanics**

Iger will continue as chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Co. through the end of 2021. Disney said Thursday that it anticipates the acquisition providing at least \$2 billion in cost savings. Both companies' boards have approved the deal. It

still needs approval from Disney and 21st Century Fox shareholders.

Before the buyout, 21st Century Fox will separate the Fox Broadcasting network and stations, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, FS1, FS2 and Big Ten Network into a newly listed company that will be spun off to its shareholders. It will also include the company's studio lot in Los Angeles and equity investment in Roku.

Fox is also selling to Disney its substantial overseas operations. Disney will get at least a 39 percent stake in European satellite-TV and broadcaster Sky. Fox is hoping to acquire the remainder of Sky before the deal closes, so that it could give Disney full control after the sale.

Disney is also acquiring Star India, a major media company with dozens of sports and entertainment channels.

Disney will also win majority control of Hulu, both its live-TV service and the older service with a big library of TV shows.

Not everyone thinks this is a good bet by Disney, though. Rich Greenfield, a longtime Disney critic, thinks the deal is a bad idea that ties Disney to older TV-distribution systems — cable and satellite TV — rather than helping it look toward the future.

He also notes that regulators may not like the idea of combining two major movie studios. The Justice Department surprised many in the industry and on Wall Street when it sued to block another media megamerger, AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner, in November.

**Murdoch family takes a bow**

Murdoch built his empire by buying a string of papers in Australia, the U.K. and the U.S., building an influential platform for his views. He expanded into TV and movies, launching the Fox network and Fox News and changing the face of American news and entertainment.

"Rupert has spent many,

"The Murdochs realize they don't have the same kind of leverage Disney has, the same kind of brand power," Smith said.

It would be harder to launch a Fox-branded streaming service that attracts lots of the new generation of consumers, for example. Smith said that makes it a great time to sell off the entertainment business.

Fox will be left with the live events, news and sports that are key parts of the traditional TV bundle. There is speculation that the Murdochs would want to recombine the slimmed-down Fox with News Corp., though Murdoch told investors Thursday, "We haven't thought about combining with News Corp."



## Politics

# FCC votes to end 'net neutrality'

The Associated Press

The Federal Communications Commission repealed the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules Thursday, giving internet service providers like Verizon, Comcast and AT&T a free hand to slow or block websites and apps as they see fit or charge more for faster speeds.

In a straight party-line vote of 3-2, the Republican-controlled FCC junked the longtime principle that said all web traffic must be treated equally. The move represents a radical departure from more than a decade of federal oversight.

The big telecommunications companies had lobbied hard to overturn the rules, contending they are heavy-handed and discourage investment in broadband networks.

"What is the FCC doing today?" asked FCC chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican. "Quite simply, we are restoring the light-touch framework that has governed the internet for most of its existence."

The push to eliminate net neutrality has stirred fears among consumer advocates, Democrats, many web companies and ordinary Americans afraid that the cable and phone giants will be able to control what people see and do online. But the broadband industry has promised that the internet experience for the public isn't going to change.

The FCC vote is unlikely to be the last word. Net neutrality supporters threatened legal challenges, with New York's attorney general vowing to lead a multi-state lawsuit. Some Democrats want to overturn the FCC action in Congress.

"The fact that Chairman Pai went through with this, a policy that is so unpopular, is somewhat shocking," said Mark Stanley, a spokesman for the civil liberties organization Demand



Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai (left) greets witnesses before a meeting where the FCC will vote on net neutrality in Washington on Thursday.

Progress. "Unfortunately, not surprising."

On Thursday, about 60 demonstrators gathered in the bitter chill in Washington to protest the FCC's expected decision. Just before the vote, the hearing room was briefly evacuated and searched for unspecified security reasons.

The FCC subscribed to the principle of net neutrality for over a decade and enshrined it in rules adopted in 2015.

Under the new rules approved Thursday, the Comcasts and AT&Ts of the world could slow down or block access to services they don't like or happen to be in competition with. They could also charge higher fees of rivals and make them pay up for higher transmission speeds. They just have to post their policies online or tell the FCC.

Such things have happened before. In 2007, for example,

The Associated Press found that Comcast was blocking or throttling some file-sharing. And AT&T blocked Skype and other internet calling services on the iPhone until 2009.

Thursday's rule change also eliminates certain federal consumer protections, bars state laws that contradict the FCC's approach, and largely transfers oversight of internet service to another agency altogether, the Federal Trade Commission.

Angelo Zino, an analyst at CFRA Research, said he expects AT&T and Verizon to be the biggest beneficiaries because the two internet giants can now give priority to the movies, TV shows and other videos or music they provide to viewers. That could hurt rivals such as Sling TV, Amazon, YouTube or start-ups yet to be born.

However, AT&T senior executive vice president Bob Quinn said in

a blog post that the internet "will continue to work tomorrow just as it always has." He said the company won't block websites and won't throttle or degrade online traffic based on content.

Internet companies such as Google, Twitter and Facebook have strongly backed net neutrality.

On Thursday, Netflix, said in a tweet it is "disappointed in the decision to gut #NetNeutrality protections that ushered in an unprecedented era of innovation, creativity & civic engagement. This is the beginning of a longer legal battle."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the Trump administration "supports the FCC's effort to roll back burdensome regulations. But as we have always done and will continue to do, we certainly support a free and fair Internet."

FCC Commissioner Mignon

Clyburn, a Democrat appointed by President Barack Obama, lambasted the "preordained outcome" of the vote that she said hurts small and large businesses and ordinary people. She said the end of net neutrality hands over the keys to the internet to a "handful of multibillion-dollar corporations."

With their vote, she added, the FCC's Republican commissioners are abandoning the pledge they took to make a rapid, efficient communications service available to all people in the U.S., without discrimination.

But Michael O'Rielly, a GOP commissioner appointed by Obama, called the FCC's approach a "well-reasoned and soundly justified order."

The internet, he said, "has functioned without net neutrality rules for far longer than it has with them." The decision "will not break the internet."

## GOP's not all that sad; party grapples with Alabama fallout

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Weary national Republicans breathed a collective sigh of relief on Wednesday, a day after voters knocked out their own party's scandal-plagued candidate in deep-red Alabama. Yet all is not well in a party confronted with new rounds of infighting and a suddenly shrinking Senate majority heading into next year's midterm elections.

A semi-humbled President Donald Trump conceded that Roy Moore's loss was not his preferred outcome. He said he "would have liked to have had the seat" and an important Senate vote as he and GOP lawmakers scratch for legislative victories.

But he also acknowledged, "A lot of Republicans feel differently. They feel very happy about the way it turned out."

Indeed, it was easy to find establishment-minded Republicans — in and out of Washington — who cheered Moore's loss as the impact of the Alabama stunner echoed throughout the political world. The prospect of a high-profile Republican senator dogged by

sexual misconduct accusations — and an all-but-certain ethics investigation — unnerved a GOP that's fearful of an albatross on its candidates in next year's campaigns.

Republican Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby said that Moore, a fiery conservative, would have brought a "radioactive" element to the Senate GOP.

"I'm relieved and I believe a lot of Republicans are relieved that Roy Moore and some of his people aren't the face of the Republican Party that I know," said Shelby, who cast a write-in vote for another Republican and never backed down in his opposition to Moore.

More than 22,000 write-in votes were cast Tuesday, more than the margin of difference between the winner and loser, suggesting many other voters refused to vote for a Democrat but couldn't accept Moore.

Sen.-elect Doug Jones' stunning Democratic victory marked a major setback for Trump and top political ally Steve Bannon. They had devoted time, resources and political capital to Moore in recent days, even as he faced the allega-



Doug Jones is greeted by a supporter before speaking during an election-night watch party in Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday.

tions of sexual misconduct and espoused views that alienated women, racial minorities, gays and Muslims.

Despite the outcome's relief for the GOP's pragmatic wing, the fight for the party's soul was hardly decided with one Alabama special election.

Allies of Bannon, who declared war on the party's establishment after leaving the White House earlier in the year, dismissed the

loss as little more than a temporary setback that would soon be forgotten. Republicans cheering Moore's loss, they said, would simply enrage Trump's most loyal supporters nationwide, who already suspected some Republican leaders were trying to undermine the president's agenda.

"They're stomping on the very base they need to turn out for their candidates in the general election in 2018," said Andy Sura-

bian, a senior adviser to the Bannon-backed Great America PAC. He contended that "the average Republican voter across the country is pointing their finger at Mitch McConnell and the Republican establishment."

Conservative activist Mark Meckler did just that.

"One hundred percent of this I hang around Mitch McConnell's neck," said Meckler, an early tea party leader, referring to the mainstream Republican who is Senate majority leader.

At the same time, the Alabama contest sounded an undeniable alarm for Republican officials charged with defending the party's majorities in the House and Senate next year. Under the weight of Trump's historically low approval ratings, Alabama put their concerns on steroids.

"This was a wake-up-and-smell-the-coffee moment," said Steven Law, who leads the Senate Leadership Fund, which is aligned with Senate GOP leaders. He said Alabama's election, like recent contests in Virginia and New Jersey, demonstrated "sky-high Democratic enthusiasm."

## Black women seek rewards from Democrats after Alabama race

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Once again, black female voters showed up for Democrats, with almost every single one of them voting in Alabama for new Sen. Doug Jones, just as they did for Democratic candidates up and down the ballot in other states over the last few months.

These same women, having proven their loyalty by voting 98 percent for Jones, now wonder whether the Democratic Party will return their love by sharing some of the party's political power, handing over places at the negotiating table and pushing legislation that speaks to their unique issues.

"Black women showed up and showed out," said Kimberlè Crenshaw, co-founder of the African American Policy Forum. In "any other context, people who get it 98 percent right, they'd be at the head of the class. It's time for black women to be at the head of the political class."

Black turnout was also high, at around 30 percent, according to



Supporters of Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Doug Jones react as they watch results during a watch party in Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday.

exit polls. That level of support mirrors what black women did in Virginia, where 91 percent of them voted for incoming Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, and in New Jersey, where 94 percent of black women voted for incoming Gov. Phil Murphy.

Those women also swept other candidates into office up and down the ballot, including Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, the first black can-

didate to be elected statewide in Virginia since Gov. Douglas Wilder in 1989.

"Let me be clear: We won in Alabama and Virginia because #BlackWomen led us to victory," said Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "Black women are the backbone of the Democratic Party, and we can't take that for granted. Period."

In Montgomery, Alabama,

70-year-old Annette Brown said she sometimes considers voting Republican, but there was no way she was going to vote for Moore.

"I've been a Democrat all my life, and I'm sure not going to switch for this election. Sometimes I feel like swinging, but not for Moore," she said.

Brown said allegations that Moore pursued teenage girls while in his 30s and his waving of a gun onstage to emphasize his views on the Second Amendment made her decision easy.

"I believe the ladies. And he's just off kilter anyway. When he pulled out that gun on stage, that was it for me," Brown said.

Black women have their own unique voting-mobilization strategy, said Barbara Arnwine, president of the Transformative Justice Coalition.

"That strategy is what I call 'my momma,'" Arnwine said. "You see, Vera Arnwine, when she knows an election is coming up, she gets on the phone. She calls everybody she knows. And she says, 'Are you voting? Are you registered? ... You

better get out there and do it.' So this is what we do and it's just so powerful."

Tuesday's election continued the trend of black women overperforming for Democratic candidates.

In the 2016 presidential race, 94 percent of black women voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton while 53 percent of white women voted for Donald Trump. In 2008 and 2012, black women voted at a higher rate than any racial or gender group, each time giving President Barack Obama 96 percent of their vote.

While black men turned out in high numbers for the Democrats as well, black women historically have been the backbone of the vote-mobilization efforts, but rarely get the credit, said LaTosha Brown, a Selma, Alabama, native and co-founder of the Black Voters Matter Fund. In Alabama, black women were on the ground working without much fanfare, just as they've done all the way back to the civil rights movement, she said.

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*Deadline to apply is December 23rd.*

FOR QUALIFICATIONS & HOW TO APPLY: Go to [www.wcsdschools.com](http://www.wcsdschools.com) and click on the "Careers" tab.

For assistance, contact Kelly Cutts 850-638-1180 ext. 302.

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## GENERAL

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**Phlebotomist**

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- \* High School Diploma
- \* Phlebotomy experience and training
- \* CMA eligible
- \* Computer proficiency to include Word and telephone operating system
- \* Must work well without supervision and function independently as a part of a multi-disciplinary team
- \* Maintains knowledge of HIV/AIDS through current trend and in-service programs as provided by MAO
- \* Effective communication skills both oral and written
- \* Valid driver's license and auto insurance

**Applicants can fax resumes to:**  
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**MOTORCYCLES**

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**REDUCED**  
 Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has had update, fresh paint, new kitchen appliances, floor covering throughout, new A/C system and new rear deck. The location is good, just a short drive to town for great amenities!  
**MLS# 663772 • PRICE REDUCED!! • \$75,000**

**Bevly Thomas**  
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 850.209.5211

Lovely brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located in Indian Springs Subdivision. Home features fresh paint, granite flooring in the lower formal living room, formal dining room, den with fireplace, newer wood. Kitchen with plenty of cabinets, counter space, breakfast nook, recessed lighting, built-in bookcases, security system and attached 2 car carport. All located on 5.11 acres.  
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**Bonifay** - Over 1,900 sq ft in this 3 Bed/2 Bath Fleetwood Carriage. Manor manufactured home on 2.5 acres, chain link fenced, porches, energy efficient windows... Move in Ready! Contact Listing Agent Today!  
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Custom built home with vaulted ceilings in the living room and very spacious kitchen with plenty of work space, lots of cabinets and built in oven and stove top. Detached garage, 3 bedrooms, new A/C unit this year and property partially fenced.  
**MLS# 659664 • \$136,000**

**Brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath** home with large living and dining area, family room, flat top stove, built in oven and large laundry room. Metal roof, security system and 2 car carport.  
**MLS# 657524 • \$54,900**

**Cottage style home** with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen with lots of cabinets, vinyl floors and wall to wall carpet. Located on 1.04 acres on paved road.  
**MLS# 663654 • \$68,500**

**Cute home** in the city limits that is very clean and has had many updates, wood laminate flooring, tile in both and kitchen, double pane windows and more improvements. Ideal rental or retiree home.  
**MLS# 662545 • \$45,000**

**Very nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath** home located on a corner chain link fenced lot. Features new appliances in kitchen, large dining room, vaulted ceiling in living room, new carpet in bedrooms/hall and some interior painting. Also includes security system, 2 car garage and sprinkler system.  
**MLS# 663656 • \$137,000**

**This 3 bedroom home** looks like it was just built with all the improvements, new kitchen, bathroom update, double pane windows, paint, A/C unit and metal roof. Home is Move In Ready!  
**MLS# 661428 • \$64,900**

**Well maintained cottage style home** featuring 2 bedrooms, living room with bonus room, large dining room, recently painted and bathroom completely remodeled. Very nice home and is Move In Ready.  
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**ACREAGE**  
 4.64 Acs. Cleared. MLS# 664134 • \$20,000.  
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 20 Acs. Has spring fed pond, wooded MLS# 661584 • \$79,900  
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 12.85 Acs. Build, good hunting area. MLS# 656387 • \$36,000

**Pat Furr**  
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**3504 Viking Dr**  
 Chipley, FL  
 3BR/2B • 1,749 Sq. Ft.  
 MLS# 660026 • \$144,900

**Jim Palmer**  
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**WATERFRONT PROPERTY - BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE STOCKED POND**, perfect peaceful setting for this 3BR/2B home nestled on 1.41 acres! Updates include totally remodeled gourmet kitchen w/top of the line solid wood cabinetry, excellent appliances, Master Bath includes large walk-in shower & Jacuzzi, new HVAC unit w/updated electrical system & metal roof and in-ground pool. The property is in 2 adjoining parcels. Shown by appointment only. MLS#664989 - \$395,000. This property is also being marketed with home and 40 acres (to be surveyed from parent parcel of 1.41 acres)  
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**LOVELY 2.6 ACRE LOCATION FOR SITE-BUILT HOME.** The land is cleared with tree line on the back of property. This property has been surveyed out of the parent parcel. This is a very quiet neighborhood in quaint and picturesque town of Dellwood, Florida.  
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**3504 Viking Dr**  
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**QUIET COUNTRY LIVING**  
 21441 CR 275 Altha - Relax and Enjoy this beautiful country mobile home on 2 acres. This 3/2 has been updated and well maintained. You can relax on your screened porch and enjoy the quiet evenings or spend time enjoying the pond and fire pit and the sounds of nature. Completely fenced this home has many safety features and has updated wiring, plumbing and new skirting. 2 Additional Workshops along with a shooting range, chicken coop, cook shed and hand pump well that works. ONLY \$84,000. MLS# 664459

**CUSTOM BUILT HOME**  
 3003 Chase Way - Custom Built home that breathes with family love and care. This 5/3 home on 3.45 acres has so many beautiful features including hardwood floors, large bedrooms, formal dining, formal living, marble fireplace in the great room and double french doors to the playground sized room office. A large kitchen with breakfast area, beautiful cabinets and all the built-in features you need. For all your fun, step outside to the 2400+/- sq. ft. MAN CAVE/ WORKSHOP. There is so much to show you about this home! MLS #654150 Call Ann Jones

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 CHECK IT OUT!  
 https://youtu.be/IR\_16TYwHAE  
 Log Cabin overlooking Ocheesee with apx 700' waterfront. Jackson County's secret 2000 acres of fishing paradise! This Log Cabin with 3/2 is filled with Cypress, Aspen and Cedar walls and ceilings. It is one of two homes on this road and is a country masterpiece well kept boat ramp. Wrap around enclosed porch that overlooks the beautiful landscaped yard and looks out over the lake. 2 Spring Fed ponds that are stocked with catfish and bream. Store your John Deere Tractor, boats and lawn equipment in the 30X50 Metal building with 3 large roll-up doors and vented ceiling. Hunting, Fishing, Relaxing on 40 Acres! MLS #658192 Call Ann Jones

**Clarice Boyette**  
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**2244 Syfrette Road, Cottontale**  
 \$98,000 MLS #663786  
 Country Living. This 3 Bedrooms 1 1/2 Baths Home sits on 3 acres with a pond in back. Home has Sun Room added to front of Home for added space. New cabinets in 2003. There is a mobile Home that goes with the property. Plenty of room for a couple of horses. 1 1/2 Bath can be easily converted to full Bath, space is there. Feel like you are in the country, but close to 231 that takes you to the Panama City Beaches or go north and get to Dothan, AL in about 45 minutes.

**5349 7TH ST., MALONE**  
 \$119,900  
 Small town Charm is what you get with this 4 Bedrooms 2 Baths Home located close to the school in Malone. Open concept with Split Design and fenced in Back yard make it easy to entertain your family and friends.

**5395 COTTON ST., GRACEVILLE**  
 \$87,900  
 When you buy this home, you also get a building that was once used for a Flower Shop. New metal roof on Shop. Many possibilities here. Come see this huge 3 Bedrooms 2 Baths home. Dining and Kitchen areas combined. Very Big Living room and Bedrooms with original hardwood floors. New 3 Ton Condenser was installed December 2014. Currently used as Rental Property. Needs updating.

**2943 Noland Street, Marianna**  
 \$128,500 MLS#663910  
 Home with a Hilltop View. This 2 Bedrooms, 1 Full Bath has been updated including new painting throughout inside, floors have been professionally done to make hardwood floors thru out. Bedrooms are spacious, Sun Room, with Brick flooring, opens up to rear of the home. Detached in the backyard is a Newly Remodeled A-Frame structure that could be an Extra Bedroom, Storage, or Shop. The home has an attached 1 car carport. Conveniently located to Downtown Marianna, including Doctors Offices, Hospital, and Stores.

**WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!**  
 5336 10th St. • Malone  
 5,362 Sq Ft of Heated and Cooled Commercial Space located within 30 miles of AL and GA. The facility is in great condition with the installation of a Roof, Paint and Flooring in 2013. This former medical clinic and retail pharmacy space could fit a number of uses. This commercial space has maximum exposure on a Main Hwy, plenty of parking, complete with a Large Illuminated Sign.  
 Make an appointment today to see what this space has to offer! MLS# 641199

**EXTRA LARGE MASTER BEDROOM!**  
 4971 Redwood Dr. • Marianna  
 Beautiful 3BR/2 Ba. 2130 Sq. Ft. home on a double lot! Very spacious, many features include new carpet, fireplace, new fans in all rms, and lg master bdms. With walk-in closet. The kitchen is open w/dining area, lg laundry rm. And pantry. Spacious screened in bbq porch, patio, and lg fenced in backyard. Short drive to local schools, area sports complex & many rec. sites. MLS# 661789

**DEER HUNTER'S DREAM!**  
 902 Lakepoint Rd. • Alford  
 40 acre property is an Equestrian Dream! Fenced and cross fenced with a beautiful 36' x 72' stable that is fully equipped and a lg. arena. This 4 bed/2ba home has over 2000 sq ft. features new double fireplaces, completed by beautiful hardwood floors. A small pond & creek that makes it a deer hunter's dream! A short distance from Panama City, Dothan, or Tallahassee and located only 2 miles from the public boat access to Compass Lake. MLS# 657198

**NEW LISTING!**  
 4630 Bales Dr. • Marianna  
 Beautiful 3 BR/2.5 Ba home in a well established neighborhood overlooking the Citizens Lodge Park. This home is full of character and charm with its many features including the circular based ceiling in the living and dining rooms with a double fireplace, completed by beautiful hardwood floors in the dining room, hallway and foyer. This home has plenty of windows with tons of natural light, storage and closet space to spare. Downstairs features a large family room, a workshop for any hobby and a garage. Home sits on 1.7 acres, just minutes from Downtown, schools and shopping! MLS# 664143

**FOR SALE**  
**Grand Palms Realty**  
 850-526-1970

Tim Sapp, Broker/Owner  
 850-209-3595  
 timsapp90@gmail.com

Sandra Ward, Realtor®  
 850-573-6849  
 sward55@gmail.com

www.GrandPalmsRealty.com

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING**  
 Wow! What an opportunity for one that wants to be in the Flower Shoppe business or just about anything. Beautiful building and excellent location and well established. Corner lot in Medical area of Marianna. Many possibilities here with City approval. High traffic count. Paved parking, storage. Seller will consider owner finance. This is a must see today! Call and make arrangements to see asap. Call Tim - MLS# 660699 - \$199,900

**PRICE REDUCED!**  
**GRAND RIDGE**  
 Picturesque 4/3 home in beautiful large oak setting. Home has original hardwood flooring, split bedroom design, sweet tea front porch setting is a must see. 3 yr new metal roof and 3 yr new heat pump, nice back deck for entertaining by the above ground pool with outdoor shower, nice outside shop with 1 car garage and bathroom.  
 650 sq. ft. apt. currently rented, with detached laundry and storage area for rental. Make an appt. today. Very convenient to Marianna and Tallahassee and I-10. Call Tim - MLS# 662412 - \$154,000

**HOME & 10 ACRES**  
 Mini horse ranch fenced & cross fenced. Beautiful pasture land. 3/2 Modular home w/basement & if finished would add double the floor space. Split bdrm floor plan w/ crown molding throughout home. Wheel chair ramp in rear & plus Pecan, magnolia and many more trees. 5 stall horse barn. Automatic watering trough, metal barn, 2 grain bins, hwy frontage. Horse wire. Electric ran back to land of back with separate meter. Electric fence. Chicken pens. This is a must see to appreciate. Call Tim - MLS# 658023 - \$162,500

**MARIANNA**  
 Gorgeous home located in Greenfield Subd. Very spacious 4/2 home built for enjoyment. Kitchen is a dream with Blue Pearl granite, SS appliances, soft close drawers, Specialty cabinets doors, and breakfast nook. Large master suit with beautiful tile in both bathrooms, tray ceilings in several rooms. Large master closet, with so spacious den. Plenty of room in the laundry that flows to the garage. Dining room that accommodate a large dining rm table for family gatherings. Tile through the house except for bedrooms with 2 year old carpet. Plenty of room on the back porch overlooking backyard fire pit. Very convenient to Marianna High School, Florida Governors State Park and Hospital. Call Tim - MLS# 663655 - \$279,000

**COMMERCIAL**  
 Great office building on Hwy 71 North, just outside of city limits. This brick building consists of 1152 sq. ft. with 4+ offices, meeting room and 2 handicap bathrooms. Has paved parking up front. Seller is MOTIVATED! Call Tim - MLS# 640586 Price \$99,500

**BLOUNTSTOWN**  
 Fish/Relax on these Chipola River Front lots. Located (according to seller) outside of the flood zone. 200 feet waterfront. Build your weekend getaway or a permanent home just south of Blountstown. Boat Ramp close by. This is hard to find with such easy access. Call Tim - MLS# 663001 - \$100,000

**GREAT LOCATION, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**  
 This Building was used for over 30 years as a Fish and Seafood Market. Very successful business location. Convenient to Hwy 231 and 90. 3 Miles to I-10. Coolers are still installed. Comes with a lot in rear of property with a mobile home that is rented out. Call Tim - MLS# 655483 - \$169,000

**REDUCED \$10,000**  
 Hwy 231 Location! Smaller home in great condition. 2/1 used as residential but owner has used the location as a car lot in the past. Great visibility. New metal roof and new Heat Pump all installed in 2016. Would make a nice rental or business location. Call Tim - MLS# 654761 Price - \$69,900

**ALTHA**  
 Country home with 798 (mo) acres! This home has 3 bedrooms and 2 other rooms that could be used as bedrooms, office, exercise room or hobby room. There is a separate building that is just steps away from the house that measures approx. 48x25 and use this great space for additional living area, workshop, business, etc. Located on a paved highway and not far from town. Call Sandra - MLS# 656957 Price \$125,900

**WORKING FARM**  
 73 acre working cattle farm, fenced/cross-fenced, income producing property with 1 house (being renovated) and 3 mobile homes (rented), 5 wells, 4 stocked fish ponds, grand-daddy oaks, cattle shoot and 2 large hay barns. THIS IS A MUST SEE! Live off the land, grow your own cattle/hay production, income off rentals, great garden spot. Has 65 acres in pasture. (Farming equipment available at additional price). Conveniently located to Chipley, Graceville, Panama City and Dothan, AL. Make an appointment today! Call Sandra - MLS# 640728 Price \$348,000

**MARIANNA**  
 Southern charm is what you will find in this 4 bdrm 2 bath home. It was built in 1935, but has had several updates. Large kitchen with Jennie's stove, Master bdrm and two others on the ground floor. Super cute upstairs bdrm and office upstairs. Has built-in drawers/bookcase. Nice 15 seer A/C/H unit, fenced in back yard and a 2-car enclosed garage with a great storage room also. Comes with a termite bond. Conveniently located to the hospital, college, and schools. Call Sandra - MLS# 649844 Price \$109,000

**VERY MOTIVATED!!**  
 Commercial/Residential  
 This corner lot residence has been used as a beauty shop/home but can easily be reverted back to a full residence. Great location with lot's of possibilities! Convenient to schools, Chipola College, a Federal Prison and the hospital. SELLER IS MOTIVATED! Call Sandra - MLS# 644237 Price \$75,000

**HORSE/CATTLE RANCH**  
 This 71 acre working ranch has a 4 bdrm, 2 baths mobile home. New metal roof and lg. front porch. Unique gazebo from a grain bin! 4 ponds on the property, one in each pasture area. Property has two (2) 32'x60' structures w/electric and one 27'x36' structure w/electric, all less than a year old. One of these structures is a barn w/5 stalls, tack room & a feed room. Appx. 50 acres pasture land. Excellent hunting! Fenced & cross fenced. New 4" well w/new motor and shaft. Excellent location near Hwy 231 and I-10. Call Sandra - MLS# 659180 Price - \$279,900

**GRACEVILLE**  
 Beautiful 4 bdrm/2 1/2 bath home on 2 acres in town! Quality is displayed throughout this home, remodeled staircase, master bdrm/bath upgrade, quality laminate flooring, new carpet in 3 bdrms and a new security system. NEW ROOF 2016. NEW A/C system in 2015. All double-insulated windows and a wood burning fireplace. Nicely landscaped yard. Includes a 20x40 shop on a concrete floor. You will not be disappointed! Call Sandra - MLS# 640726 Price \$249,000

**STOP PAYING RENT!!**  
 Updated home in Blountstown on 47 acre corner lot close to everything! 2 BR 2BA with bonus room. Fresh paint inside & out. Refined wood and new vinyl flooring. Recent hot water tank, replacement windows and metal roof. All appliances stay, incl. washer/dryer. Build equity with payment same as rent. Make an appointment today! Call Sandra - MLS# 664186 Price \$79,900

**TRANSPORTATION**

**TRUCKS, BUSES, TRACTORS, TRAILERS**

**NEW MASTER TOW DOLLY TRAILER**, tilt bed, 14" wheels, electric brakes, NEW spare tire & rim, perfect for truck or RV. Paid \$2800. Asking ONLY \$2200 Call 334-449-2794

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Call Jim 334-379-4953

**LEGALS**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**L5486 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR WATER USE PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application(s) for water use permit(s) has (have) been received by the Northwest Florida Water Management District:  
Application Number 2E-063-5462-4 filed December 13, 2017. SPP Land, LLC, Pat Duane, 6304 Peake Road, Macon, GA 31210. Requesting an average withdrawal of 133,000 gallons per day from the Floridan Aquifer (Undiff) for Agricultural use by existing and proposed facilities. General withdrawal location(s) in Jackson County: Sections 10 and 9, Township 6N, Range 10W.

Interested persons may submit written comments/objection or submit a written request for the notice of proposed agency action (NOPAA) regarding the application by writing to: Division of Regulatory Services, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Attn: Terri Peterson, 152 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333. A NOPAA will be mailed only to persons who have filed such requests. A NOPAA must be requested in order to be advised of further proceedings and any public hearing date. Written comments/objection or NOPAA requests must be received by 5:00 p.m. ET, within 14 days of publication of this notice of application.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. Publication of this notice constitutes constructive notice of the permit application to all substantially affected persons.

**L5404 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Town of Sneads located in Jackson County, Florida, will receive sealed proposals from any qualified person, company, or corporation interested in providing the following services: **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION/DISPOSAL SERVICES**  
Ten (10) copies of sealed proposals marked "Solid Waste Collection/Disposal Services, Attention: Connie Lea Butts, Town Manager" must be received by 2 pm (CST) on Friday, January 5, 2018 at the office of the Town Manager, Sneads City Hall, 2028 Third Avenue, Sneads, FL 32460. Immediately following the deadline all proposals will be opened and read publicly

**LEGAL NOTICES**

in the Sneads City Hall Council Meeting Room. The Proposal Packet can be obtained at no charge from the Sneads City Hall located at 2028 Third Avenue, Sneads, FL 32460. For additional information, you may contact Town Manager, Connie Lea Butts, at 850-593-6636. Each proposal must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or cashier's check payable to the Town of Sneads for five percent (5%) of the required \$50,000 (fifty thousand) Performance Bond. The Town of Sneads reserves the right to waive informalities or to reject any or all proposals. Award will be made on the basis of the cost and qualifications/reputation of the proposer. The Town of Sneads will not be obligated to award the contract to the lowest proposer.

**L5449 LEGAL NOTICE**

The School Board of Jackson County will receive bids in the office of the Superintendent of Schools until Thursday, January 4, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and tabulated for:

**18-01 Scrap Metal**  
Bid forms may be picked up at the Jackson County School Board Facility Office located at 3546 Caverns Road, Marianna, Florida, 32446, during the normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or accept the one most beneficial to its operation.  
/s/ H. Larry Moore  
Superintendent of Schools

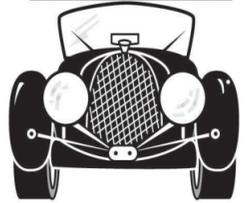
**L5469 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

**Mallory Towing & Recovery Inc .** gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 12/26/2017, 2:00 pm at 4141 Lafayette St Marianna, FL 32446, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Mallory Towing & Recovery Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. VIN 1G1ZS52F65F112251 2005 CHEVROLET

**L5468 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

**Mallory Towing & Recovery Inc .** gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 12/27/2017, 2:00 pm at 4141 Lafayette St Marianna, FL 32446, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. Mallory Towing & Recovery Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. VIN 5LMFU27R73LJ51394 2003 LINCOLN

**Sell Your CLASSIC**



**In The Classifieds**

**DANA PANICHELLA**



4420 Lafayette • Marianna  
dano@americangoldrealty.com  
**Cell (850) 209-8870**  
www.americangoldrealty.com

**00 S Hwy 71 • Marianna, FL**  
2 Commercial lots with highway frontage. Property is located across from the Walmart Shopping Center & very close to the Interstate 10 entrance & exit ramps. Highly visible location for a business. MLS# 640698 **Price \$199,000**

**3825 Little Zion Rd. • Sneads, FL**  
Very nice 3BR/2.5B home in the country. Entry has a closed in porch to sit & enjoy the outdoor views. Outside has a concrete drive with a workshop/storage building on one side & a patio with a fire pit on the other side of home. Most of the property is enclosed with a chain link fence. MLS# 662260 **Price \$173,900**

**2915 Green St. • Marianna, FL**  
Beautifully kept home in Marianna. Located within walking distance of all the amenities that Marianna has to offer. Home has been remodeled and updated. Enclosed back porch, landscaped yards, paved driveway, carport, & entrance & exit to 2 main Marianna Streets. There is a huge boat house, workshop, & storage combo building in the back. MLS# 647743 **Price \$169,900**

**2635 Highway 73 • Marianna, FL**  
Beautiful historic home built in 1916 located on 11.26 acres close to town. New stainless steel appliances to include a five burner gas stove. There is a wraparound porch; it has a one car attached carport. Dining room has a fireplace. Rooms have 10 ft ceilings; a large over sized garage/workshop. Also included is a additional 25x23 home on the side. Loads of citrus and fruit trees. MLS# 664690 **Price \$187,000**

**4368 River Forest Road • Marianna, FL**  
EXECUTIVE HOME FOR SALE. Well maintained 3BR/2B bath located in established neighborhood. Florida room with windows overlooking a beautifully manicured back yard & flower garden. There are 2 hot water heaters to provide hot water & the property has a submersible well. There is a gas fireplace in the living room. Termite bond on the home is transferable to the new buyer. The window blinds will convey with the sale, however, the window dressings will not convey. MLS# 663408 **Price \$229,900**

**4728 Meadowview Rd. • Marianna, FL**  
Beautiful two story home with 3BR/2.5B in a quiet neighborhood. Home has been well kept and is move in ready. The spacious two car garage has washer/dryer hook-ups and convenient access to the kitchen. MLS# 659423 **Price \$183,000**

**5377 Blue Springs Rd. • Marianna, FL**  
Very cozy 3BR/1B home. Home is located less than 14 miles from public boat landing for Merritts Mill Pond and sits on a very large corner lot. There is an in-ground pool with adjoining gold fish pond. There are three outdoor sheds/buildings, one was used as a business at one time, one has electric and water, one is an open storage shed. Lots of motion detector lights. There is also a screened in porch. MLS# 651508 **Price \$114,000**

**5053 Jeanette Dr. • Marianna, FL**  
This is a move in ready three bedroom two bath home close to Merritts Mill Pond. Home has a newly remodeled kitchen with tile back-splash and all matching Frigidaire appliances. Lot has three large storage sheds/workshops, one of which is attached to home with covered carport. MLS# 661479 **Price \$139,000**

**1396 Foxworth • Chipley, FL**  
This very nice home located on 5.8 acres and has two wells. There is a 12x24 dog pen located behind house and has three gated sections. Home has new metal roof, vinyl siding, ac/heat unit, high-grade floor covering, paint, water heater, fixtures thru-out, blinds and balcony. Home is a 2/2 bath, has a room on the back that can be converted into a bedroom with private entrance. Home has a wood burning fireplace and cedar built-in shelves and storage areas. Home is priced below RFR value. MLS# 662045 **Price \$130,000**

**2933 Madison St. • Marianna, FL**  
\$5,000 PRICE REDUCTION. OWNERS ARE MOTIVATED! Very nice historical home that is ZONED MIXED USE! Home has 4BR/2.5B a shower in the laundry room... A sitting area/office and an additional room that could be used as an office or turned into additional bedroom. Carport was closed in to make a four room apartment to include a little kitchen area. MLS# 645363 **Price \$117,000**

**709 N Waukesha • Bonifay, FL**  
This is a 3BR/2B home on a half of a city block right on HWY 79 in Bonifay. Home is in need of some renovation but is livable as is. Must see to appreciate, yard is beautifully landscaped and offers plenty of privacy. MLS# 661563 **Price \$147,000**

**7427 Highway 90 • Grand Ridge, FL**  
This is a nice 2BR/1B home located on 2.85 acres on hwy 90 in Grand Ridge. Master bedroom has plumbing ran with a sink so you could easily install a second bathroom. Metal roof is only two years old. Detached carport and several out buildings. MLS# 655750 **Price \$80,000**

**5488 9th St. • Malone, FL**  
A nice first-time home buyer house, perfect for a small family. Lots of work has been done on it. Backyard is fenced, privacy fencing is owned and the chain link is neighbor owned. 3 pecan trees & blueberry bushes. Yard building with electric & panel box, has a deck attached. Monthly pest control in place. MLS# 641320 **Price \$62,500**

**5353 10th St. • Malone, FL**  
This 3B/2B home is move-in ready. You enter through a beautiful wrap-around porch. You first notice the 12 foot ceilings, which give the home a more spacious feeling. The 7 ft. interior doors and 5 inch and 10 inch baseboards are also an added touch. MLS# 655794 **Price \$149,000**

**9224 Olive Ave. • Port St. Joe, FL**  
Comfortable 2BR/1B mobile home just 3 blocks from the fabulous waters of Mexico Beach. Yard has plenty of room for boat or watercraft storage. MLS# 662518 **Price \$125,000**

**7951 Old Spanish Trail • Sneads, FL**  
Nice 3BR/2.5B in town home. Washer and dryer convey with purchase. Most of the yard has chain link fencing. There is a storage building out back that conveys with purchase. Nice covered front porch and side porch. MLS# 664295 **Price \$74,900**

**DANA PANICHELLA**



4420 Lafayette • Marianna  
dano@americangoldrealty.com  
**Cell (850) 209-8870**  
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**000 Taylor Rd. • Cottondale, FL**  
Absolutely beautiful 205 +/- acres of land that has multiple build-able home sites. Property has marketable hardwoods and pines. It is currently being used for row crops and hay in the open areas. The wooded land could be cleared off and used for home sites or additional crop land or hay fields. There are approx. 3122' frontage on Taylor and approx. .9 mile on Obert Road! MLS# 655732 **Price \$485,000**

**2881 Madison Street • Marianna, FL**  
This iconic restaurant located in an historic building is being offered as a turnkey business opportunity. Madison's was established in 1992 as a restaurant. Current owner has owned business since 2004. Currently configured for 90 seats but can easily accommodate 150. Holds a transferable (with background check) 2COP liquor license. Building has been recently updated to include roof, facade, and interior. All equipment is in working order and most refrigeration is still under factory warranty. 4 station POS system, cookware, small wares, service ware, and inventory will add to buyers success. Current owner is a real estate agent. MLS# 657974 **Price \$475,000**

**663 Tequesta • Marianna, FL**  
This 3BR/3B brick home that was built in 2001 and located on 2.37 acres. Home has two master suites that each have their own bath, sitting room and large walk-in closets, home is a split floor plan. Kitchen has nice sized laundry room with linen closet. Also features a large 24x24 bonus/rec room with french doors that lead out to the side yard. There is also a half bath right next to the bonus room. Has 2 brick outbuildings. The front yard has a circular driveway. Being a homeowner in this community comes with many amenities. MLS# 661142 **Price \$335,000**

**392 Silver Lake N • Marianna, FL**  
Check out this beautiful 3BR/3B custom built waterfront home with 145 on Silver Lake on .76 acres. There is a beautiful 237' floating dock that leads out to the lake and an additional moveable swim deck that comes with purchase. Home is equipped with a generator hookup in case of power outage. Commercial on-demand water heater, propane 2-sided fireplace, underground utilities, master bath has a 110+ gallon jacuzzi tub with mounted television. It also comes with a washer and dryer. Upstairs has a large open room that could be split into two rooms to make a FIVE bedroom home. MLS# 663608 **Price \$349,900**

**2910 Borden • Marianna, FL**  
Spanish-style building in Marianna currently being operated as a hair salon that has been totally remodeled. Amazing hardwood floors, seven original non-working fireplaces, newly painted, and landscaped. Paved parking with over 20 spaces and circular drive around building. It has nine large open offices, two restrooms, 9' hallway, a kitchenette, laundry area, built in cabinets in many areas and storage area. This building has limitless possibilities for many different businesses. Equipment and business can be purchased for an additional \$25,000 MLS# 657047 **Price \$230,000**

**837 Lakepoint • Alford, FL**  
Amazing 60+/- acres with 1316 feet on Hwy 231 and 1773 feet on Lakepoint Road. Home is a older home and needs some TLC but would be a awesome place once rehabbed! Most of the value is in the land. The property has a natural spring that is located approximately 200 yds west of the house that flows south. The house has two septic tanks, one on north side and one on west side. It has an large well that supply's water to house and barn. There is also a well and septic on the south side of the property at an old home site. MLS# 654431 **Price \$269,000**

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**7241 Chipley Street, Cottondale.**  
Good Value - Move in Ready 3/1 Metal Roof. Small yard.  
Low Monthly payments. MLS 654738 - \$69,900

**2741 Chipley Street, Cottondale.**  
Cheaper than paying rent. 2/1 located at 2854 Sunset Drive, Marianna WOW what a price!  
MLS 641111 - \$32,500

**Brick home Chipley City Limits - 550 Davis Street. Metal Roof. Tile & laminate flooring. 3/1 with lots of family living space.**  
MLS 662073 - \$75,000

**Looking for a CASH buyer. 10 acres, 2 SW MH's, 2 Large Metal buildings. Washington County close to Bay Co. line.**  
Off Hwy 20 & 231. MLS 656478 - \$75,000

**2/2 on Flynt Dr in Marianna 2 story home MLS 652862 - \$79,900 plus Adjoining 3/2 Brick home for sale. Perfect for a family looking to stay close.**

**4281 ORK Street. Over 1600sf Brick home.**  
3/2 corner lot in Marianna. Owner said she will finance with 20% down.  
Make your offer. MLS 663822 - \$79,900

**Work is Done! Move in. 3/2 located on Dead End Road. 3.03 Acres. New roof & New HVAC.**  
Private in a Quiet Neighborhood. MLS 658348 - \$119,900

**This beautiful 2 story home has it all. 3/2.22 with over 2600 living sf, in ground swimming pool, large metal work shop with game room. 2 Acres. Paved road. MLS 659382**

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